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THE HISTORY

of

NEW DURHAM, New Hampshire

From the

FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME

Including

THAT PART OF ALTON WHICH WAS FORMERLY
NEW DURHAM GORE

* * * * *

by

ELLEN CLOUTMAN JENNINGS

New Durham

1962

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THE HISTORY OF
NEW DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On December 10, 1762, the Royal Governor of the Province of New Hampshire affixed his signature to a document which declared the Town of New Durham to be a "town corporate."

Two hundred years have elapsed since the first town meeting. The following brief account of the inhabitants, their local government, activities and way of life during those years is presented with the fervent hope that it will be of interest.

The most earnest effort has been made toward accuracy — the writings of earlier New England recorders having been searched diligently for factual accounts.

No town ever existed that did not have its share of tragedy, evil, crimes of passion and violence. Stories of this nature have, for the most part, been intentionally omitted.

The writer is deeply grateful to many people for many things but most of all for their interest and encouragement in this small history, the compiling of which has been an absorbing occupation.

Especial thanks go to the Board of Selectmen of New Durham, who allowed the writer to borrow the early town record books for long periods of time, and to Mrs. Cecil M. Pike and Mrs. Irene Wentworth, who cheerfully answered so many questions, offered information and loaned books, pictures and family papers.

Very pleasant personal interviews were held with Mr. Maurice Bennett and Mrs. Lester Downing of Alton; Mrs. Alexander Bill of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Mrs. George H. Jones of Rochester; and Mrs. Charles Bennett, Mr. Roy W. Berry, Mr. Richard Miller and Mrs. Walter H. Miller of New Durham.

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Not the least of my assistance came from a patient husband, who talked over problems, traced roads and boundaries on the map, carried books back and forth, and whose interest was never less than my own.

ELLEN CLOUTMAN JENNINGS.

Nothing that was worthy in the past departs; no truth or goodness realized by man ever dies, or can die; but is all still here, and, recognized or not, lives and works through endless changes.

— Thomas Carlyle.

CHAPTER ONE

The Beginning

“In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth,” and that was about all that existed in our town in 1722. The heaven, the earth, some Indians and one road.

We would not call it a road today, nor was it much of a road even by the standards of 1722. The overgrown, rocky “wood roads,” which we find in our back lands and hillsides today are far better than was this rough and winding trail. “Road” it was, however, and described thus:

“*The Indians frequently came across Winnipесаaukee and down our valley in raids on the settlements at Dover and beyond, and it was proposed to erect a fort at the lake as a barrier to these forays. To establish this fort, it was necessary to open up a traversable route to the lake for soldiers and supplies.

The proposed fort was never erected; but the New Hampshire Colonial Assembly in 1721, sitting at Portsmouth, voted to cut a road from ‘Cocheco (Dover) to Winnipishoky Pond’; this road was surveyed in May, 1722, and completed during that summer. The work is said to have taken but eight days, which would indicate that it was little better than a bridle path and was alluded to as the soldiers’ road.

This road traversed Farmington — up Main Street — up the hill by the reservoir and along the Waldron Pond and Tibbetts Hill route. By reason of its termination at the lake, this highway came to be known as the Bay Road and to this day continues to be thus known in deeds and boundaries. Narrow and primitive as this road undoubtedly was, yet it was the first public way leading to the beautiful Winnipесаaukee, preceding by a half-century the Governor Wentworth Road from Portsmouth to Wolfeboro.”

In 1722, when this road was hacked out through the forests of our town, George the First reigned in England and Samuel Shute of Massachusetts was Governor of New Hampshire. Political and financial disagreements resulted in the latter being replaced by Lt. Governor John Wentworth, a grandson of Elder William Wentworth, who moved from Boston to Exeter in 1639, and is the acknowledged founder of the Wentworth family in New England.

Awarding large grants of land seemed to be a favorite pastime of those in governmental authority. For services rendered, or those expected to be rendered, for military valor, or for just friendship’s sake, governors and lieutenant governors gave away thousands of

* Excerpts from an article published in the Farmington News, “The Old Bay Road,” by Stanley P. Nute, from the papers of the late Samuel S. Parker.

acres, not forgetting to set aside a few hundred each year for themselves. When Benning Wentworth was removed from the governor's seat in 1766, it was estimated that he had acquired about 100,000 acres of land in this way.

In October, 1737, Governor Jonathan Belcher chartered a town to be named "Kingswood," encompassing the towns now called Middleton, Brookfield, New Durham, Alton, and parts of Gilman-ton, Wakefield and Wolfeboro. This charter was given to sixty men with the usual stipulations, but the area was so large and the settlers so few. due to fear of Indian raids. that the project failed. Two years before Governor Belcher was removed from office, the charter was annulled.

After the failure of "Kingswood," there remained in this area the heaven, the earth, Indians and the road, with a few settlers at distant locations, and nothing disturbed this serenity for many years.

What is New Durham like today? Travelers passing through on the ancient road see a pretty town. Lining the main street at spacious intervals are a little white church, the dignified Town Hall, a school, the fire station, stores and a post office. Lilacs nod by the doorways of pleasant homes, old-fashioned roses climb painted trellises, and geraniums bloom in sunny windows.

To the southwest are hills and valleys spotted with comfortable, elm-shaded farmhouses. To the north is Merrymeeting Lake, one of the most beautiful small bodies of water in New Hampshire. Clear, cold streams run through our forests.

A great deal has happened since the road from "Cocheco to Winnipishoky Pond" was laid out through our town. Great deeds have been performed by brave and noble men; wars have been fought, battles won and lost, peace treaties made, huge cities built. These events all made history.

People made history, too. The circumstances concerning the lives of ordinary people, their families and homes, the trades or professions in which they earned their living, their diligence in industrial development, their striving for justice in the government and growth of a small American town such as ours, have formed an enduring background in the fabric of the history of this nation.

Our citizens today are ordinary people. We go to the polls, pay our taxes, support the church of our faith, serve on committees when necessary for a good cause and attempt to keep our lives and property in good order. Our form of government, like every other small New England town, follows a pattern which took shape over three centuries ago and has changed but little since.

We take for granted our electric and telephone services. Our smooth highways in winter are cleared of snow with great machines. We can purchase all manner of good food at our local

stores. We enjoy radio and television, automobiles and washing machines. This is the 20th century.

What was it like in the beginning? What kind of people came here to settle, where did they come from and why did they choose this particular location? What was the manner of their living?

In seventeen hundred and forty-eight, this area was still a vast wilderness. There was nothing here at all. Nothing at all, except a faint track through the rough plain, a dusty indication that a party of Indian scouts or a cart drawn by oxen had passed this way. The forests abounded on all sides with no access therein, except Indian trails over which few men would dare to travel.

Northwest lay Winnipishoky Pond, farther north rose the great White Hills, through which no road would be built for another thirty-five years. Most of central and northern New Hampshire was a huge and often terrifying wilderness, for the Indians were still a very real threat, especially to isolated villages.

A treaty of peace had been concluded between England and France in 1748, ending "King George's War," which had been carried on to protect and retain the north and western boundaries of New England — France having been ably abetted by the Indians. This peace was short-lived, however, for in 1754 the Indians renewed their vicious raids with burnings, scalplings, and abductions on the frontier towns. Small wonder that new settlements grew slowly, for the inhuman and fiendish Indians were a horrible threat to a family in a lonely farmhouse.

The western boundaries of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and what was to be Vermont were dotted with forts manned by New England and New Hampshire men. Among them was Major Thomas Tash of Newmarket, who later was to play such a prominent role in the government of our town. These locations were the scenes of some of the most stirring events in the history of New Hampshire.

Tracts of land were being granted, however, all during the fifteen years of the "French and Indian War." Peterborough, New Boston, Warner, Sutton, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Dunbarton and many others were being opened up in these years. Middleton was granted to 80 petitioners in 1749, settlers took up land in Gilmanton and Wolfeborough in the 1760's.

After the fall of Quebec in 1760, peace returned to New Hampshire, and men could go ahead about the business of homesteading and farming with greater ease of mind.

The granting of lands for townships was in the hands of twelve or more men at Portsmouth, known as the "Masonian Proprietors." The account of the Masonian element in New England is too long and complicated to relate here, but briefly, it is this: a Colonel John Tufton Mason claimed inheritance of many hundreds

of thousands of acres of land in Maine and New Hampshire which had been awarded to his ancestor, Captain John Mason, by King James I. This was not the first such claim — as we said, the story is a long one.

He offered to sell these lands to the Assembly of the State, but urgent and critical events delayed consideration of the offer for so long that in 1746 he sold all his rights to twelve of the leading citizens of Portsmouth for 1500 pounds. These men split up fifteen shares, selling to associates and relatives; it is worthy of mention that most of the group were related by blood or marriage.

These “leading citizens” were men of wealth and influence, and there were many such in the old seacoast town of Portsmouth. The government of the Province of New Hampshire was seated there, its head of state being Benning Wentworth, the royal governor from 1741 to 1766. He was a former merchant, who, in his exalted position, pleased neither the people nor his King.

Only the rich could acquire an education in those days, and the educated citizenry were highly esteemed. It was this group who made the laws, sometimes for the benefit of the people, but oftener for their own profit. They made fortunes in shipbuilding, shipping and trading, which was attended with not a little smuggling, and they managed the lumbering operations that provided masts for His Majesty’s navy. They lived in fine houses, furnished with choice English silver, Irish linen, French porcelain and elegant furniture. When they rode out, they went in painted coaches driven by liveried coachmen.

Not far from Portsmouth there were other settlements including Durham, Exeter, Newmarket and Greenland in the Great Bay region off the Piscataqua River, and it was in these villages that the men lived who petitioned the Masonian Proprietors for a grant of land north of Rochester. Most of them were of English descent — their forebears, in some cases, having come to the colonies as early as 1631. They worked at many trades — wheelwright, joiner, blacksmith, logger, mason, saddler, cordwainer, tailor, fisherman, and tanner. Many had seen military service. There were none of great wealth or formal education. They were, for the most part, ordinary men who worked hard, raised large families and, from time to time, gathered at the local tavern where they could discuss the events of the day over a tankard of ale.

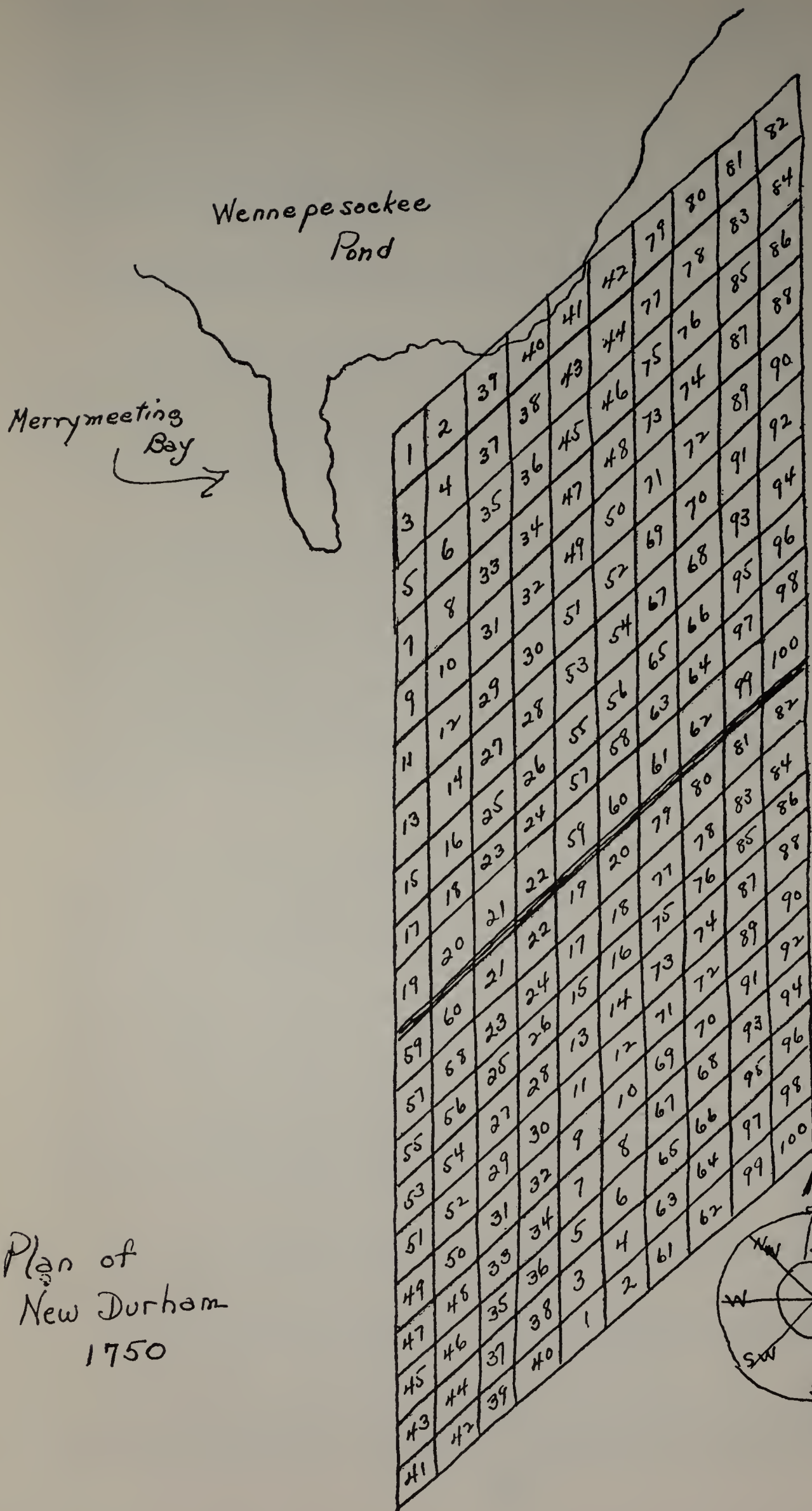
In 1748, Captain Jonathan Chesley and Ebenezer Smith drew up a document which read as follows:

“Prov of New } To the Hon The Purchasers and Proprietors of
Hampshire } Mason’s Right (so called)

The Petition of Jonathan Chesley and Eben^r Smith of Durham Gentⁿ Humbly Shews — That your Petitioners are appointed Agents

for and on behalf of a number of ye Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Sd Durham who are desirous of having a certain Tract of Land granted them within Said Masons Sd Right and being convinced (upon ye best Information we can get) that ye Property is yours and consequently that you can give us a Title to what we desire Therefore We Humbly pray that we and our Constituents may have ye Grant of a Township bounding upon Rochester Head Line and Barnstead upon Such Terms as Shall be most likely to promote your and our interest."

Such was the very beginning of the town of New Durham.



CHAPTER TWO

The Land

It would be far more colorful if we could relate that the migration from the Great Bay towns took place all at once, a cheering band of pioneers starting the perilous journey north into the wilderness to found a new settlement, somewhat like the wagon trains heading westward a hundred years later. But it did not happen that way at all.

After the petition of Chesley and Smith had been sent in, the list of subscribers to the petition was completed and presented to the Proprietors at Portsmouth. This was accepted, and the Proprietors presented them with a charter, or land grant, which was a wordy contract similar in context to those of other towns, outlining, in some 2,000 words, the conditions and limitations to which the new town was bound.

The area, six miles square, in the shape of a rhomboid running north and south, was marked into two divisions having 100 lots in each. The lots in the first division were to be one hundred acres each; those in the second division identically numbered, to have "all the land belonging to each share respectively." This plan was to be drawn up within a year and the lots to be drawn in the customary manner.

There was a lot reserved for the "first minister of the Gospel" and a lot "for and towards the support of the Gospel Ministry there forever," these lots to be placed conveniently near the lot reserved for the Meeting House. There were to be six acres of land reserved for "a Meeting House and School house, Training field, a Burying place or other public use."

Each lot owner was to build a house at least sixteen feet square. There should be forty families settled within five years after a peace was proclaimed between the English, French and Indians; in addition to the house as described, each family should have three acres cleared for mowing or tillage. The Meeting House must be built within six years, and a saw mill within five years.

The lots should be laid out as equally as possible; the highways between the ranges four rods wide and those between the lots, two rods wide. And ". . . all white pine trees fit for His Majesty's use for masting ye Royal navy be . . . reserved." After stern warnings of forfeiture and confiscation if these conditions were not met, the contract concludes:

"And it is to be understood that the number of years mentioned herein for the Grantees to do and perform the Several articles Matters and things aforesaid is to be so many years free from the Impediment and Interruption of an Indian War."

In the Spring of 1750, the land was surveyed and a plan or map of numbered lots was drawn up. In May, at Ann Slayton's house at Portsmouth, the numbered names of the petitioners and the numbers of the lots were drawn together and a list of the results made known. As was the custom, a certain number of shares were reserved for the grantors, or Proprietors, free of tax and charges. These, as many as are known, are marked with a "P".

Minister's Lot	No. 9	Joseph Wheeler	22
Ministry Lot	10	Joseph Bickford	36
Thomas Packer, Esq.	72 P	Daniel Pierce &	21 P
Richard Denbo and		Mary Moor	P
Caleb Wakeham	59	Volentine Mathews	84
Ebenezer Smith	63	Robert Kent	35
John Edgerly	62	Joseph Smith, Jun	34
Eleazer Bickford	27	Thos Wallingford, Esq.	60 P
Richard Wibird, Esq.	68 P	Daniel Rogers	24
Jeremiah Burnam	13	Nath, Meserve Esq.	16
Winthrop Burnam &	97	& others	
Ichabod Denbo		David Davis	94
Eliphalet Daniel	58	Joseph Jones	8
John Bennick &	11	James Smith	89
John Elliot		John Andros &	7
Jonathan Chesly	73	Philip Cromett	
John Johnson &	23	George Jaffrey	38 P
Nathaniel Frost		Theodore Willey &	clerk 6
Joseph Dude, Jun	43	John Bickford, Jun	
John Footman &	67	Joseph Smith	55
Thomas Stevenson, Jun		Philip Chesly	53
Benjamin Mathews	48	Jonathan Chesly, Jun	95
School Lot	33	Benjamin Smith	66
Benjamin Bennick &	69	John Bickford	64
John Mason		Joshua Pierce, Esq	83 P
Joseph Chesly	37	John Durgan &	17
John Tufton Mason	P	Francis Durgan	
& John Tomlinson, Esq.	98 P	Joseph Sias	80
Jotham Odiorne, Esq.	76 P	Jonathan Durgan	100
Benjamin Jenkins	42	Simon Randel	57
Jeremiah Drisco &	28	Volentine Hill	4
Peter Mow		Miles Randel	85
Joseph Burnam	50	Joseph Drew &	82
Lemuel Chesly	15	John Drew	
		Abraham Mathews	39

John Moffatt, Esq	14 P	Benmore Dude &	40
Francis Drew &	65	Nicholas Dude	
Abraham Stevenson		William Jackson, Jun	47
Thomas Chesly, Jun	79	Samuel Smith, Jun	30
Jeremiah Burnam Jun	93	Thomas Chesly	96
Samuel Wille	71	John Cromett	51
Benjamin Jackson	52	John Wille, Jun	44
Sam Solly and	86 P	Law Lot No 1	96
Clement March, Esq.	P	Robert Burnam	5
Thomas Langley	88	Joseph Weeks	50
Job Runnells, Jun	81	Abraham Bennick Jun	20
Joseph Thomas	32	Stephen Jones, Jun	90
Theodore Atkinson, Esq	46 P	John Addams, minister	41
John Wentworth, Jun.,		Samuel Sias &	92
Esq	78 P	Solomon Sias	
William Weeks	12	William Bruce	29
Samuel Chesly	1	Thomas York &	19
Mark Hunking Wentworth,		William Durgan	
Esq	31-P	Law Lot no 2	61
Abednego Leathers	3	Walter Brient	74 P
Samuel Stevens &	75		surveyor
James Thompson		Nicholas Perryman, Esq	2 P
John Burnam	77	Samuel Addams	18
Mark Hunking Wentworth,		Ichabod Chesly	25
Esq	87 P	Thomas Young	45
Trueworthy Durgan	91	Ebenezer Jones	49
Thomas Wille Jun	70	James Drisco	54
Thomas Tash	99		

It is perhaps surprising to find that only about two percent of the petitioners actually came to the new settlement at once, accepted their lot and started a homestead, but there were reasons for this. The whole scheme was a huge real estate development which would be known as a corporation today, the "owners" giving away free land to whoever would sign up for it. Many men applied for land who had no intention of ever coming here. They did so as an investment, with the chance that their lots might be desirable enough to sell later on. The scheme was profitable to the Proprietors, too — more land opened up meant more masts for the King's navy, plus the 200 or so acres that each Proprietor received, tax-exempt.

Many shares were kept in the family — an elderly father would turn it over to a son or nephew who had more strength and courage than he. Many of the names on later lists of residents are those of men whose elders originally signed up for land and thus disposed of it. Some of the original petitioners did come later and take up their lot for a home. Some made a trip of exploration in anticipation and left in disgust when they found their lot to be a stony hillside or a damp and moldy swamp.

Moving a family from Durham to New Durham in the 1750's was an achievement fraught with danger and extreme physical hardship. We, who can drive an automobile over smooth wide roads to Durham in less than an hour, find it almost impossible to imagine the conditions under which these hardy families made the journey.

It is likely that, as in other settlements, the man of the family made a preliminary trip to his lot, accompanied by a strong and able friend. They cut a rough trail for others to follow, felled some trees, built a rude shelter, and after a few weeks' work, rode back to Durham.

Then came the tears of parting from friends; the apprehension deep in the hearts of the women folk, who knew not what dangers might overtake them in the wilderness; the rounding-up of the children, while the patient oxen stood with their cart loaded high with household goods, the horses saddled and waiting.

The road from Durham to Dover and Rochester was well-traveled and probably did not give them too much trouble. But north of Rochester, the road was no more than a horse trail, which was rough and hazardous. Some must walk and carry the littlest children, while the men went ahead to cut bushes and trees that impeded their progress. Streams and rivers must be forded, for there were no bridges.

Sometimes the trip was undertaken in the winter months, or early spring (which is often worse than winter in this area). Then they wore snowshoes and hauled their goods on wooden hand-sleds, the women carrying the children.

We do not know how many men, women and children came in the years between 1750 and 1762, or who they were. We can only surmise, from the ancient records, that some of the earliest settlers bore the names of Allard, Bennett, Berry, Bickford, Durgin, Dow, Davis, Glidden, March, Rogers and Young. Family by family they came, and for months and years worked every daylight hour of every weekday to establish a home.

In 1762, the residents felt that it was time to put in a request to the royal governor for recognition in the form of a charter which would authorize them to have a town government of their own. Accordingly, this charter was granted with the permission of King George III, and signed by Governor Benning Wentworth of the Province of New Hampshire on December 7, 1762. The text of this charter is printed elsewhere in this book. This original document, setting forth the "powers, Authorities, privileges, Immunities and Franchises" which the new town might "hold and enjoy," and naming Major Thomas Tash, an officer of the French and Indian War, to call the first town meeting, is carefully preserved among the town's records, and is one of few such rarities in the State of New Hampshire.

CHAPTER THREE

How They Lived

In 1770, Timothy Murry and Shadrach Allard made an inventory called "Report of Settlements," of the families, houses, improved ground and felled trees in New Durham. The first report and supplementary report made the same year is combined here and shows the heads of families:

David Allard; Henry Allard; Shadrach Allard; Jonathan Allard; Benjamin Berry; James Berry; Marriam Berry, widow; John Benrick; Benjamin Bickford; Ebenezer Bickford; Ebenezer Bickford, Jun.; Robert Boodey; Zachariah Boodey; Ichabod Buzzy (or Jonathan Buzzell); John Collema; James Chesley; Joseph Durgan; Ebenezer Dow; Jeremiah Dow; John Doe; Timothy Davis; Josiah Doe; Nick Glidden; John Glidden; Zebulon Glidden; Widow Sarah Gledon, wife of Benjamin; Nathan Kenneston; David Langley; Joseph Libbey; Benjamin Mathes; Benjamin Mooney; Paul March; Timothy Murry; Edward Peavey; William Peavey; James Palmer; John Rogers; Joseph Small; James Stillson; Jeremiah Taylor; Thomas Younge and John Younge.

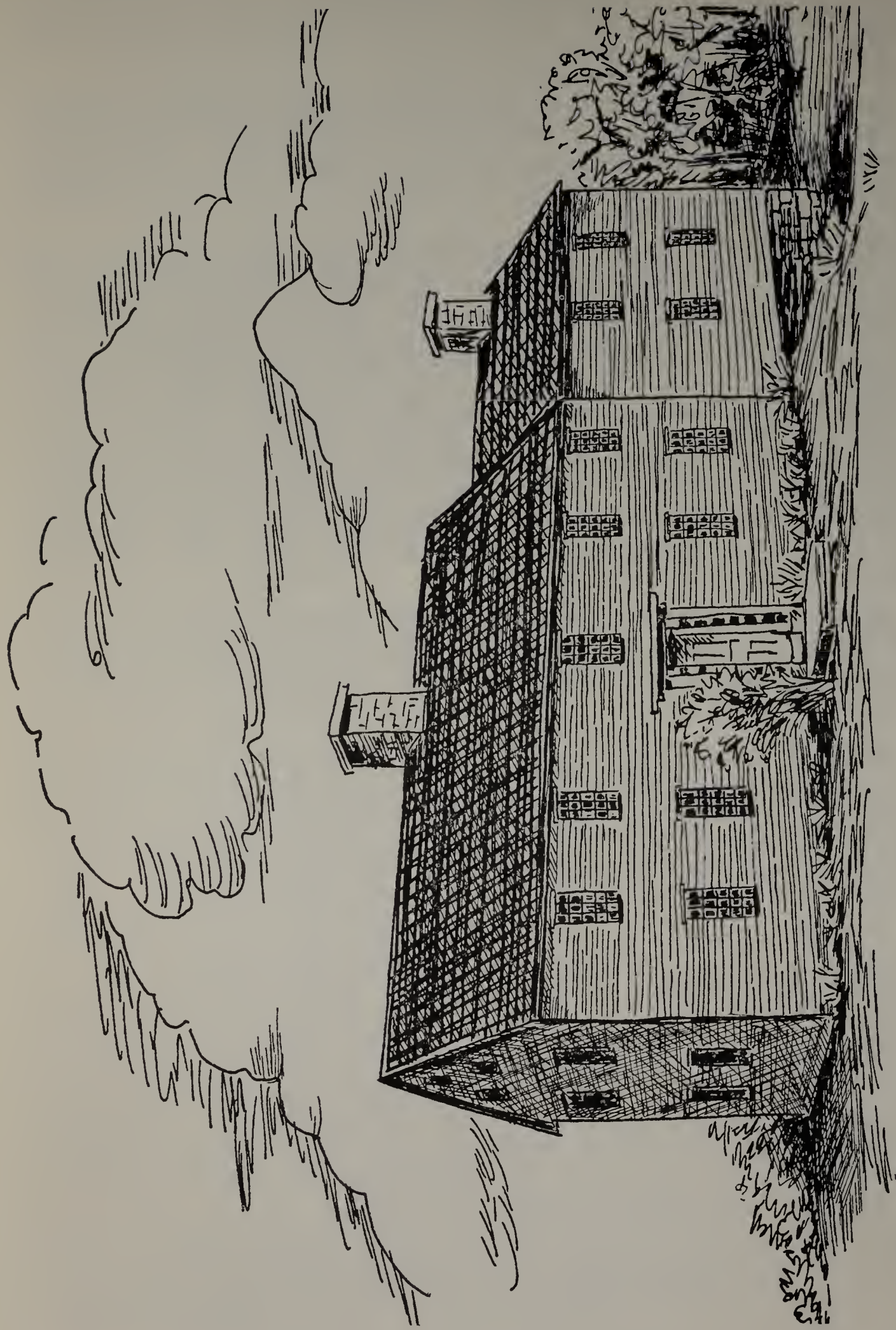
There were forty-one houses for the forty-two families, one grist mill in operation (a saw mill had burned that winter), 448½ acres of land had been cleared and construction of the Meeting House had been started.

All of this represented a tremendous amount of back-breaking labor. Clearing of the land was an urgent necessity for protection from the wild beasts in the woods and for a planting area. It was all done by hand. The trees were felled with a small axe — the broadax was used for hewing the large round logs into square beams — the adze for squaring off the smaller logs.

A man's tools and weapons were precious to him; he took the best possible care of his knife, axe and gun, for the loss of any of these could sometimes mean the difference between life and death.

The earliest houses were of "loggs" — small, dark and miserably cold. The floor was of earth, the windows of oiled paper, the fireplace of rough stone. When the saw mills began operating, however, several frame houses were erected in New Durham, with many others to follow as the years went on; story-and-a-half farmhouses of spacious dimensions, others of two stories, with nice proportions and with paneling and fine woodwork within.

The move from a "logg" hut to a good two-storied house did not mean that living was easy in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The houses were barely warmed with fireplaces, and the only illumination was provided by candles and the flickering light of the odorous little Betty lamps, which burned fat.



"Half-Way House" circa 1770, on New Durham Ridge in the Gore, now Alton. So-called because it was half-way on the circuitous stage coach route between Concord and Portsmouth. Owned by one of the Davis families, now owned by Mr. Roy W. Berry.

Family activity centered around the massive fireplace in the largest room, which was kitchen, living room and dining room combined. In addition, it often had a large curtained bed in the corner for family or guests. The room perhaps was furnished with a pine settle in the chimney corner, a "deal" table, ladderback chairs and a cupboard or dresser to hold the treenware and pewter. The family Bible had its place on the table.

The bedrooms had floors of wide boards with a rag carpet or two. There was a wide posted bed with a deep feather mattress placed on tightly drawn ropes, covered with homespun blankets and a spread of linsey-woolsey. A chest for storing clothing and sundry articles completed the furnishings of the bedroom.

Every man, whether he had a trade or calling, was a farmer first of all. He and his sons cleared the land of rocks and lined them up into stone walls. He planted corn, wheat, oats and pumpkins, mowed the hay for his stock, sheared his sheep, hauled his water from spring or brook and cut his firewood. He gathered honey from hollow tree trunks; in the early spring, he gathered the sap from his maple trees and boiled it down for the family supply of sugar.

No man went abroad without his rifle. It was a protection and the means with which he provided meat for his table. He was a good marksman and brought home deer, raccoon, partridge, wild turkey, fox and an occasional bear. The meat was cooked or dried, the skins used for clothing and shoes. If he had any spare time, he whittled out wooden bowls, spoons, trenchers, wooden stools and chairs.

His wife worked from dawn to dusk. She bore her many children without benefit of pain relievers, attended only by a woman neighbor or relative. She cooked over an open fire, baked in the domed-top bake oven, made her soap from wood ashes and fat, dipped or molded the constantly-needed supply of candles, and concocted her own medicines. She and her daughters washed, carded and spun the wool, colored it with dyes they made themselves from the barks, blossoms and roots they gathered in the woods, and wove it into cloth on the loom. She milked the cow, churned the butter, pressed the cheese, knitted the family stockings and on Sunday, bundled up her brood, and the whole family attended church.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, families were large. Parents frequently had eight to twelve children — often more; and, in many cases, grandfathers, grandmothers, maiden aunts and sundry relatives were included in the family circle. As in any large family, there were frequent accidents and illnesses. Doctors were literally few and far between and were sent for only in the gravest emergency. The women of the household were skilled in the art of making and applying homemade remedies, "receipts" for which had been handed down from mother to daughter for generations, many of Indian origin.

Preparation for a long cold winter included not only cutting the firewood, laying away food in the cellar and banking the house foundations with evergreen boughs, but also the gathering, drying and preserving of blossoms, barks, roots and herbs for the medicine supply. Sage, mixed with honey and vinegar, was used for sore throat; wild cherry bark steeped in cold water became a tonic to "calm irritation and nervous excitability" (jittery nerves?). A decoction of wild rhubarb served as a laxative, strong tea of wild carrot roots relieved tape worms, teas made of checkerberry, peppermint or catnip soothed an upset stomach. Bittersweet leaves and twigs boiled together was recommended for treating cancers, ringworm and the itch. Dandelion leaves eaten as greens were good for the blood. Wild cranberry for kidney troubles, juniper for dropsy. Pine pitch spread on leather became a plaster for a weak back. For rheumatic pains in the bones, the feet were soaked in warm water in which hemlock branches had been steeped.

Shoemake (sumac) berries made a pleasant drink for "feverish complaint." Skunk cabbage roots and seeds for asthma, nervous spasms, dropsy, rheumatism and epilepsy. Other plants used, all found locally, were hop vines, elderberries, colts foot, milk weed, butterfly weed, horse radish, burdock, mullein, plantain, mustard, tansy and blackberries.

Poultices were used for many ailments. Bark, leaves, blossoms or seeds were stewed in water or milk, thickened with bread crumbs, rye or Indian meal and applied warm. Many of the above-mentioned wild plants were used; in addition, poultices were made of white pond lily roots, poppy blossoms, rotten apples, (for inflamed eyes), horse manure and pansies.

Soothing ointments were made in great variety with sweet oil or lard as a base. To this they added lilies, hops, onions, chalk, snow, tobacco, tar or dock and probably many other things that would not appeal to us very much today.

These simple (and some not so simple) remedies doubtless relieved much suffering and cured many minor ills, but they were powerless in the treatment of the serious epidemics which raged not infrequently through New England. Typhoid fever, "spotted" fever, diphtheria, cholera and smallpox flared up spasmodically; polio left many children crippled. In 1735 a mysterious and frightful epidemic of "throat distemper," a malady similar to diphtheria, claimed over 1000 lives in the Province, almost all of whom were under twenty years of age. Twenty families in the Hampton area lost all their children.

Infant mortality was high; old birth records show that at least three, often more, out of nine babies "died in infancy." Pollution from wells, the "out-house" with its flies, undetected diseases of cattle and lack of screening for protection from mosquitoes and gnats all contributed to fevers and contagion.

No schooling or help was given the mentally retarded child. He was labeled "idiot" and cruelly teased by his playmates, or shunned altogether.

The first doctor to live in town was Dr. Joseph Coggeswell, one of nineteen children born to Nathaniel and Judith (Badger) Coggeswell of Haverhill, Massachusetts. He served in the Revolutionary War at a very young age, studied medicine with his brother, Dr. William Coggeswell, and was assistant surgeon at West Point. He married Judith Colby in 1790; and after practicing medicine in Warner, New Hampshire, for three years, moved to New Durham.

He took part in town affairs, being a collector of school money and a tithingman in 1793. In the same year, he bid for a pew in the gallery of the Meeting House. He is mentioned as a surveyor of highways in 1795, and the birth and death of his second child is on record. In 1797, he moved to Tamworth, where he practiced medicine for many years.

Dr. Abner Page lived here in 1803, Dr. Henry Sargent in 1814, and Dr. Ebenezer Dearborn in 1817.

CHAPTER FOUR

Town Meetings

“Men are never so likely to settle a question rightly as when they discuss it freely.”

— Lord Macauley.

Many early settlements were formed by groups led by their chosen ministers. Even before incorporation, in some cases, these congregations proceeded to set up rules and regulations for self-government, based on the democratic policy of choosing their moderators, deacons, elders and tithingmen, and holding the right of voting on church policies and activities. Later on, when the desire for land influenced additional groups to create a new town, their local government took shape in much the same manner. “Moderator” is defined in the dictionary as “the presiding officer of a meeting, especially in the Presbyterian and Congregational churches;” and “tythingmen,” who enforced Sunday observance and order, were regular town officers until well into the middle of the nineteenth century.

Town meetings were held regularly to attend to all matters relating to the town and its inhabitants, the land and its boundaries, the assessment of property and the collection of taxes, the building of roads, establishment of schools and the relief of the poor. Many problems of a more personal nature were worked out at the town meetings, too, for the nearest court was miles away, and the roads bad. In any case, few men had the money to pay court costs.

The reins of town government were then, as now, in the hands of a very few. One reason was that not all men could read and write. The entries over the names of a few of the earliest town “clarks” (the English pronunciation and often spelled this way) show that they managed their goose quill pens with some difficulty and with but elementary knowledge of the rules of spelling.

The first town meeting was called probably about the first part of January, 1763, and the first annual meeting on the first Monday in March of that year. Unfortunately, we have no record of what transpired at those meetings.

The first recorded notice of a town meeting reads as follows:

“Notice is hereby given to the Inhabitants and Proprietors of the Town of New Durham in the Province of New Hampshire That a Meeting of said Proprietors will be held at the house of Shadrach Allard in said New Durham on the first Monday of March next To begin at 2 of the clock in the Afternoon — Then and there to act on the Following Articles Viz, 1st To Chuse a Moderator, Clark,

and all other Necessary officers. 2dly To Raise Money Sufficient to defray all Necessary Charges that Hath or may arise, 3ly, to Agree on Some Method for Calling Proprietors Meetings for the future and to Act and Vote on any other Matter and Thing that may then be found Necessary.

Dated Feby 23, 1765

Joseph Thomas
Daniel Rogers
Thomas Tash

Selectmen

Entered and Recorded According to the Original Notification Augt, 1765

Thos Tash, Clark"

This meeting was held and after choosing Joseph Thomas Moderator, it was adjourned to June 3, when they reconvened and voted:

- 1st: that Thomas Tash, Esq. be Town and Proprietors clerk.
- 2nd: that Thomas Tash, Esq., Lieut. Joseph Thomas, and Capt. Daniel Rogers be Selectmen.
- 3rd: that Volentine Mathas and Abednego Leathers be assessors.
- 4th: that Rev. John Adams, Lieut. Samuel Doe and John Smith, Jun., Esq., be commissioners.
- 5th: that Joseph Thomas be collector.
- 6th: that Shadrach Allard be Surveyor of highways.
- 7th: that Benjamin Berry be tithingman.
- 8th: that some method be resolved for calling of Proprietors' meetings.
- 9th: that Volentine Mathas and Abednego Leathers be a committee to call Proprietors meetings for the Present year.

Later, in addition to these town officers, there were Lot layers, who ran boundary lines; fence viewers, who assisted the lot layers in boundary disputes; constable, who for many years was tax collector as well, and hay wards, hog reeves and field drivers. Just what duties were performed by the last three officers remains a mystery!

All manner of business was brought up at the Town Meeting. One of the frequent complaints which was handled with a minimum of charity and a maximum of speed was that of stray women, men or families who wandered into town with no place to stay and no means of subsistence.

In 1778, George Bickford, constable, was commanded "to warn Jenna Doe of Tamworth and her children to depart out of this town and likewise you are to warn Rachel Horn and her child to de-

part . . . least they be chargable to said Town.” Robert Boody, Thomas Young and Henry Allard were the Selectmen who signed this order.

In 1791, “. . . Complaint has been made . . . that one Prudence Richards belonging to the town of Rochester is now in this town . . . and may be chargable unless it is timely prevented.” John Bennett, constable, was commanded to “warn the said Prudence Richards . . . to depart forthwith, and if she refuses, you are to carry her out and leave her in Rochester . . .”

We wonder if the worthy constable spent sleepless nights worrying about the best method of “carrying her out,” but if he did, his apprehension proved groundless, for he reported two weeks later after his warning, “the said Prudence Richards departed out of this town immediately.”

A man named Phillip Keille, his wife and four daughters were banished in January, 1792, and since a David Keille was a resident and town officer at the time, one can only suppose that it seemed an excellent way of getting rid of unwanted relatives!

Then, as now, it was sometimes difficult to procure the right man for the job. In March, 1780, James Folsom was chosen for constable. In June, the town received from him “ninety pounds paper money currency as a fine for refusing to serve . . . and chose Mr. Ebenezer Durgin in his stead,” and voted to give the latter the ninety pounds and five percent for collecting this year’s taxes. He was given this money, but, in September, he declined to serve and returned the money to the town, which chose Mr. Elisha Thomas, constable. He apparently accepted and served.

At the conclusion of a warrant for a Town Meeting, called for September 18, 1782, it was stated:

“And as the inhabitants of said town have been very inattentive when called upon to attend public meetings, by which herefore the Town is likely to be involved in great Difficulties it is earnestly desired there may be a general attendance. By order of the Selectmen.

John Roberts, John Bennet, Jun., Peter Drowne”

The report of said meeting reads thus:

“Wednesday, September 18th, 1782. The Town met but nothing of importance being transacted the said meeting was dissolved.

Peter Drowne, T. Clerk”

Rodes, rhodes, roads. No matter how they spelled them, roads were the most urgent necessity for many years, as they were in all the other settlements. Man power was scarce; it was hard and time-consuming labor to “spot” trees, break and cut through the tall forests, yet the conditions of the land grant must be met and the townspeople have access to their farms. Our neighbor, Middleton,

was warned in 1769 that unless a good road be cut and cleared through that settlement, the Mason Proprietors were determined "to enter upon and regrant every delinquent's share without distinction or reserve." (One reason for their severity in this case was that Governor John Wentworth was building a magnificent home at Wolfeborough and wanted a decent road over which to transport his boards and building materials!)

That there was no good main road through New Durham is evidenced by the following, dated 3rd of March, 1766:

". . . There should be a road laid out 2 rods wide to begin at Rochester Line (now Farmington) . . . at the head of said road that leads to a place called Plainfield in New Durham . . . and to run through New Durham . . . Timothy Murray, Shadrach Allard and James Berry chosen as a committee to lay out said road in the best and most convenient place." A year later, the road is described as being laid out, surveyors' measurements being carefully recorded, ending with so many rods "to a pine tree marked I M."

In January, the Selectmen record a road that begins at a "sarten horn beam bush marked on both sides," and later describe another road beginning at the Gore line at a "sarten red oak marked E B, R B, B M."

A town meeting was called for September 19, 1778, to decide on many diverse problems:

"Whereas there is 12 pounds due to the Treasury from New Durham for the year 1775 that they did not raise that year, they were sent to for it and if we neglect to raise it, we shall have the extent for to us by the Court. And furthermore there is great complaint about the cross road leading from Middletown and other roads and there is not money enough voted as to make them passable therefore we called this meeting.

". . . To vote the sum to be immediately raised due from us and paid. To vote what roads to be cleared out this fall. To vote how much money shall be raised to clear out said roads. To vote that the Town should buy a book for to keep the town accounts in, To pass any vote or votes that shall be thought proper when assembled."

The town meeting was held, and it was "Voted to raise 12 pounds and pay it to the Treasury it being due there."

There were constant appeals from the townspeople for new roads, improvements to existing roads and for bridges to be built. The responsibility for maintaining the roads was divided up; in 1784, they voted Mr. William Ham, surveyor of the main road; Col. Tash, surveyor of the cross center road to Middletown; Capt. James Stillson, surveyor of the road from Lt. Allard's to Marches Pond, so-called; Capt. Robert Boodey, surveyor of the main Ridge Road from Rochester line to the Gore and the cross road to Chamberlin's;

Mr. Moses Meeder, surveyor of the main road from Zeb Glidden's to the main road near Willey's; and Lt. Thomas French, surveyor of the cross road. These highway supervisors were changed from time to time and, as the town became more populated, other roads were opened and additional men chosen to oversee their condition.

But no one was really satisfied! In 1789, the town voted: "To take under consideration . . . a petition of a number of inhabitants of Gilmanton, Rochester, etc., setting forth that the road through New Durham is unsafe for travelers . . ." At the next meeting, they "Chose Thomas Tash, Esq. an agent to attend the next General Sessions to answer in behalf of this town respecting a petition . . . and to employ an attorney if he should think it best for the benefit of said town."

Though the selectmen made short work of the wandering poor who invaded the town, they gave careful consideration to the rightful residents, who, through unfortunate circumstances, were unable to fend for themselves. Having no large treasury to dip into, they could not dole out sums of money without a good deal of deliberation. Some of the solutions at which they arrived for the relief of the local poor may seem hard-hearted to us today, but in retrospect, their methods were as reasonable as the times would allow.

We do not know the predicament of Mrs. Lucy Hynes, widow, to whom the town voted to give 10 dollars toward the support of her child in March, 1789. This was evidently not enough, for the following year, they voted Ens. John Glidden "fifteen pounds, 12 shillings to be paid . . . for keeping the Widow Lucy Hynes child one year and to find her in victuals and clothes and take as good care of her as possible according to the circumstances of the child . . . one-half of the above sum is to be paid in Indian corn at 4/pn Bushel in six months and the other half in lumber in one year from this date to be delivered at Dover Landing at the common market price."

Consider the plight of Isaac Nute, who, in November, 1791, made application to the town, ". . . setting forth that his family is in a distressed situation and suffering condition and must have seasonable relief or starve — as he cannot leave home, his wife being in such a bad state of health that she cannot do without somebody to take care of her."

A week later, the town voted ". . . to set up Mr. Isaac Nute, his wife and youngest child at once at Vendue to be struck off to the lowest bidder for the same. Set them up accordingly and struck them off to Lt. Stephen Berry at twenty-two dollars for 12 months, to be paid in the privilege of a Pew, and 10 dollars worth of boards, he finding them in clothes and maintaining them in a comfortable manner and if they are in better apparel at the year's end, said Berry is to be paid by the town. Necessary Doctor's bills, in case of sickness are to be paid by the town. Set up on like conditions his son Jacob struck off to George Davis to be paid in corn . . . or

lumber at market price. Set up Samuel in like manner to George Davis and he is to have six dollars. Set up Lettice on the like conditions and struck her off to Solomon Davis at four dollars." (Afterward, the latter changed his mind, and Lettice went to Abraham Libbey for five dollars.)

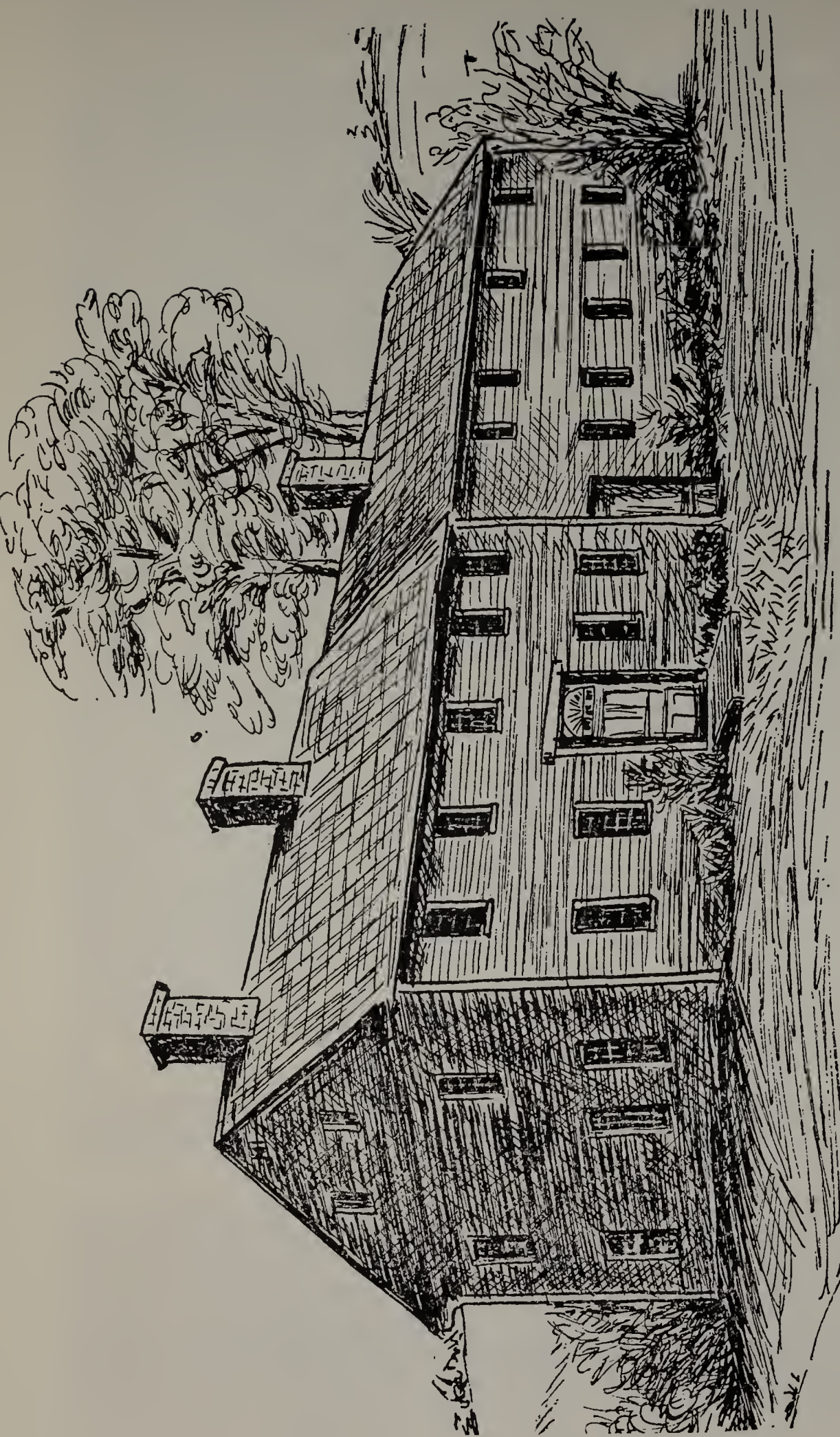
A custom of those times which persisted for many years was having young men (and sometimes young women) "bound out." In some cases, the Selectmen arranged this, as in May, 1792, they voted ". . . that the selectmen bind out Jonathan Durgin, son of Nathaniel Durgin, until he be 21 years of age. Set up said Jonathan at public vendue and struck him off to Captain John Bennett and he is to have two dollars for taking him and he is to give the boy two suits of clothes when he is out of his time and to learn him to read and write as well as is customary in such cases. Mr. Ebenezer Durgin afterwards took said Jonathan instead of Captain Bennett. Voted that Samuel Durgin, Jerry Durgin, and Nicholas Durgin, sons of Nathaniel Durgin be bound out by the selectmen of the town, unless Nathaniel Durgin binds them out himself within one month."

These boys often learned a trade in this manner such as that of blacksmith, cooper or cordwainer, but more often they lived and worked on the farm of their master, who was supposed to give them a good home and kind treatment. Sometimes, however, the boys were abused and over-worked, as in the case of John F. Cloutman, born in New Durham in 1831 (the grandfather of the writer), who was bound out to a local man who treated him so harshly that he ran away.

Elements of pathos and drama are contained in an entry dated August 9, 1791, when ". . . at the request of the selectmen of New Durham, Esther P. of said New Durham in said county, a single woman and spinster, was brought before me, Avery Hall, Esq., one of the justices of the peace for said County, to be examined upon oath, touching the father of the child with which she was supposed to be pregnant, that measures might be taken to save the town from charge by her, and that the said Esther did then utterly refuse to father the child upon any man by oath."

Who can guess what reason Esther had for withholding the name of her seducer? Was he a well-known family man whose name and reputation she would so nobly protect?

Indeed the small town governing bodies were faced with as many challenges in the eighteenth century, as they are today in the twentieth. With their want of education, and lack of worldly knowledge, it seems apparent that a strong sense of justice and fair play, attended with good moral virtues and a respectful adherence to the ten Commandments, were the guides which pointed the way to the solutions to their problems.



The Tavern and home of Shadrach Allard in 1762. at New Durham Corner. Town meetings were held here before the Meeting House was completed in 1772, and frequently afterward. From an old photograph taken by the late Izah P. Berry.

CHAPTER FIVE

Early Taverns

*Where village statesmen talk'd with looks profound,
And news much older than their ale went round.*

The Deserted Village—Oliver Goldsmith.

Inns and taverns had an important place in the lives of the early Colonists. Roads were incredibly bad, transportation difficult and slow. When Benjamin Randal came with his family to New Durham in 1778, the journey from Newcastle took three days. When Governor John Wentworth journeyed by stage coach from Portsmouth to his beloved Wolfeborough, he was obliged to halt his entourage and stop overnight at an Inn in Rochester.

The earliest stage coaches were nothing more than large wagons with benches, a cover over all and the driver's seat outside. They traveled about four or five miles an hour, stopping every ten miles or so for "horse baiting."* The roads were rough trails that had been cleared of rocks and trees — dusty and bumpy in summer, almost impassable in winter and dangerous mires of deep mud in spring, when many a coach overturned. After a ten-mile journey the bruised passengers were aching with weariness and the horses sweating with exertion.

The elegant Concord coaches did not appear until after 1827 and their novel springs and upholstered seats made a tremendous improvement in comfort. But there was not to be a smooth paved road in New England until well after 1900.

Travelers were relieved to quit the stage coach when it stopped at a tavern. There they were greeted by the inn keeper, freshened themselves and enjoyed food and drink. If they stopped for the night, they might have to share their room with fellow travelers, always paying extra for a fire or hot water in their room.

The tavern keeper, or "inn holder" as he is often named in New Durham annals, was usually a man of good character, respected throughout the community. He often held town offices, did his share of improving the land, tried to maintain good order in his place of business and supported the church.

There were inns from earliest times, not always as separate buildings, but in a man's home where he could offer travelers a night's lodging with food and drink beside a warm fire. Though we

* Bait: To stop for rest and refreshment.

are certain that there were accommodations in town soon after the earliest settlers moved in, we find the first license to an inn holder in New Durham to have been granted to Major Joseph Mooney in March, 1793. Others over the next ten years included Capt. John Bennett, Josiah Edgerly, Jeremiah Folsom (his widow, Nanny Folsom, carried on as tavern keeper after his death) Ebenezer Durgin, Solomon Davis, Thomas Norton, Samuel Runnals, Jr., Ephraim Perkins, Reuben Hayes and Benjamin Brown. Others had license to sell by retail, namely Richard Jennings, trader, James Jewett, mill owner, and Samuel Elkins. Even the redoubtable Col. Thomas Tash had "the free approbation and consent" of the selectmen to sell rum and other spirits in New Durham, though he did not have a tavern.

A house of vast proportions was built at New Durham corner in the 1760's. This was the home of Shadrach Allard, his wife Sarah and a large family of children and it was at this house that town meetings were held in the ten years between the town's incorporation and the completion of the Meeting House at the top of the hill. Even after the latter was finished, many a town meeting was adjourned as soon as the moderator was chosen, to re-convene at the tavern!

Major Joseph Mooney ran this tavern until 1802-03, when he moved to Alton and it was subsequently owned by Stephen Berry Jr., and Joseph Berry. The structure was demolished around 1910 but part of the stone foundations may still be seen on Mr. Cecil M. Pike's property at New Durham corner.

On the second division "county road" to Wolfeboro to the north east of Shaw's pond, there once stood a beautiful and commodious tavern. Solomon Davis, listed as a resident in 1784 was the inn holder — he also had a half interest in a mill and owned several hundred acres of land in that area.

It was a large building with small-paned windows and a wide, paneled front door. The main hall was of generous proportions with a graceful stairway. On either side were parlors; in the rear were the dining room, kitchen and tap room, with the wicket which was let down over the bar at closing time. Upstairs to the left was a large room extending the entire width of the house, and several other rooms.

It was later known as the "Chesley place", and now is collapsed in ruin.

Another tavern well patronized in the late 1700's was "Half Way House" on New Durham Ridge. It was situated on the mountainous road which led westerly to Barnstead in the south part of the Gore which later became Alton and was "halfway" between Portsmouth and Concord. It was known in recent years as the "Dan Watson place."

A building of great beauty, it contained living and dining rooms on the first floor, a basement kitchen, many bedrooms, seven fireplaces and two stairways. The fireplace walls in four of the front rooms were of raised paneling and very handsome. We do not know the name of the inn holder who kept this establishment, but it probably was Davis, for there were several families of that name on the Ridge and this was Davis property. It is presently owned by Mr. Roy Berry.

Not all tavern keepers depended solely on their patronage for a living. Major Mooney was a tanner by trade, Josiah Edgerly a "joiner" or cabinet maker, Reuben Hayes a store keeper or "trader", as were Richard Jennings, James Jewett, (who had a store and mill) and James Perkins "Gentleman and Trader". Some men, whose main occupation was farming, had a tavern license in order to extend more hospitality to travelers who might be looking for lodgings at some distance from a public tavern.

The local townsmen frequented the tavern for many of the same reasons that a modern man enjoys his club or lodge today. There were always others with whom to pass the time of day; a game of cards might be played, or a wager made, all accompanied, of course, by a warming measure of rum.

One important reason for going to the tavern was to learn the news of the day. If anything of the slightest interest had happened locally it was sure to be discussed, argued about, or, in some cases, fought over! Many ideas and plans for the town's development originated at the tavern, to be taken up officially later at a town meeting.

The stage drivers and passengers who stopped overnight often had news of other settlements. A storm had washed out a bridge, a mill had burned, a runaway slave had been drowned while being pursued. Occasionally a newspaper would be passed around the tavern tables, a copy of the "New Hampshire Gazette", a weekly paper published in Portsmouth by Daniel Fowle, but few men could read and the contents would not have enlightened them much, in any case. Some news of England, a few local items, and advertisements comprised the coverage. It would not be until 1809, when Isaac Hill took over the "New Hampshire Patriot" and introduced a new era in journalism, that a newspaper would attempt to inform its readers about the state of the Union, or to influence their political thinking.

They listened and they talked of young John Wentworth, who had taken his uncle Benning's place as Royal Governor of the Province of New Hampshire in 1766, of his skill as a woodsman, (Surveyor-General of His Majesty's Woods in No. America.") his persistence in developing roads and agriculture, in establishing courts and building schools. "A good man," they said. He was doing a lot for New Hampshire, though some thought that he was spending a lot of money doing it.

They grew apprehensive as they learned about disturbing events taking place in faraway Boston. They wondered about the British "redcoats" stationed there, and why they should fire on the men of Boston in the "Boston Massacre". They spoke about the tax on tea and the "Boston Tea Party". They argued in the tavern about becoming separated from England and whether there would be a war, and whether the American colonies could stand by themselves.

In the spring of 1775, the news came about the battle of Lexington, but to New Hampshire men, what transpired in Portsmouth was of greater impact. Governor John Wentworth and his wife and child had been forced to flee their home, to take refuge in the damp and crumbling old Fort William and Mary, at Newcastle. He could not return to the city even to dissolve the general Assembly, for fear of death at the hands of the Patriots, many of whom had been his friends and supporters. His beautiful and costly home was pillaged and looted, Portsmouth was crowded with armed companies of men, Royalists were leaving the city by any means they could. War seemed inevitable.

CHAPTER SIX

The War for Independence

*Soldiers are citizens of death's grey land,
Drawing no dividend from time's tomorrows . . .
Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin
They think of firelit homes, clean beds, and wives.*

— Siegfried Sassoon.

Every school boy and girl knows the history of the American Revolution; how the ill-trained and outnumbered troops, sometimes poorly commanded and always insufficiently equipped, managed to achieve final victory, making it possible for the United States of America to emerge as an independent nation.

New Durham had been settled for only 25 years, by 1775, had been incorporated as a town for 13 years. Men were still laboring to lay out roads, clear fields and build decent homes. In 1770 there were forty two families in town; there were few males over sixteen capable of bearing arms who could be spared.

The soldier's life, even during a short term of enlistment, was not a merry one. He was ill-equipped in the matter of shoes, clothing and firearms; food was scarce and poor; disease and wounds often resulted in permanent and crippling disability or death. He was often not paid until after his service was over.

Desertions were not uncommon, and were less from lack of courage than from the urgent necessity of getting home to relieve his wife and children of the manual labor on the farm. There was hardly a family whose man was at war that did not suffer the most cruel hardships.

Since diligent research has failed to produce any previously-compiled list of Revolutionary war soldiers who were residents of New Durham and New Durham Gore at the time of their enlistments, we present the following roster with some confidence as to its accuracy:

Lt. Shadrach Allard	John Colomy
Capt. Robert Boodey	Richard Colomy
Joseph Buzzell	Ens. Timothy Davis
New Durham Gore	New Durham Gore
Robert Carson	David Doe
Lt. Ephraim Chamberlin	John Doe
New Durham Gore	Jonathan Doe

Capt. Peter Drowne
 Josiah Durgin
 Lt. Thomas French
 Ens. John Glidden
 Lt. John Glidden
 New Durham Gore
 Barzilla Hinds
 Abraham Libbey
 Benjamin Libbey
 New Durham and the Gore
 Benjamin Mooney

Joseph Morrill
 New Durham Gore
 Edward Peavey
 Rev. Nathaniel Porter
 Capt. Joseph Roberts
 New Durham Gore
 Abraham Runnals
 James Runnals
 Joseph Runnals
 William Young
 John York

The first men to enlist from New Durham were Abraham Libbey, aged 26, Barzillia Hinds*, aged 25 and Robert Carson, aged 27, (variously spelled Karsen, Cason, Corson, etc.) all "yeomen" who joined Capt. Benjamin Titcomb's company of the Second New Hampshire Regiment under Col. Enoch Poor, on June 13, 1775. On the same day, Josiah Durgin, aged 28, and David Doe, aged 24, were mustered in to Capt. Jonathan Wentworth's company — on the 20th of June, William Young, aged 21, joined this company in Col. Poor's regiment.

On March 5, 1776, Col. Joseph Badger formed the Tenth Regiment of Militia, recruiting men from Gilmanton, Barnstead, Wolfeborough, Sanbornton, Middleton and New Durham. The Seventh Company in New Durham had as its officers: Capt. Robert Boody, 1st Lieut. Shadrach Allard, 2nd Lieut. Thomas French and Ensign John Glidden. The Fourteenth Company in the Gore officers were: Captain Joseph Roberts, 1st Lieut. Ephraim Chamberlin, 2nd Lieut. John Glidden and Ensign Timothy Davis.

Rev. Nathaniel Porter went from New Durham in July, 1776 as Chaplain in Col. Joshua Wingate's Regiment; in 1777 he served in the Third Regiment under Col. Alexander Scammel.

Abraham Runnals and Edward Peavey were privates in Capt. John Brewster's Company in Col. Long's Regiment at Newcastle, from Aug. 7 to Dec. 7, 1776.

In June, 1777, Col. Badger reported that he had six New Durham men enlisted for three years in the Tenth Regiment, namely: Edward Peavey, Robert Carson, Richard Colomy, aged 21, David Doe, Jonathan Doe, aged 25 and Joseph Runnals, aged 20. Three of these were re-enlistments. Col. Badger reported earlier in the year that in New Durham there were 56 men between the ages of 16 and 50 capable of bearing arms; in the Gore there were 20.

Peter Drowne, later to serve the town as Selectman, Town Clerk and Lot Layer, was a volunteer in Col. John Langdon's Company from Sept. 29 to Oct. 31, 1777 under Gen. Gates at Saratoga.

* Hinds enlisted from New Durham but he might have been a transient worker; he settled in Gilmanton in 1776.

Later he was Captain of a Company in Col. Stephen Peabody's Regiment in Rhode Island Jan. 1 to Sept. 16, 1778. Capt. Drowne is listed as "of New Durham" in the War records, but his name does not appear in town records until 1780.

In June, 1780, three more regiments were recruited from this State. "The men were to furnish their own clothing, knapsacks and blankets and serve until the last day of December next following, or be liable to a fine of \$500. They were to be paid forty shillings a month, 'in money equal to Indian corn at four shillings a bushel, Grass-fed beef at three pence a pound, or Sole-Leather at eighteen pence a pound.' They were also to have five pounds each for clothing money, two dollars in paper currency per mile for travel, and money for rations until they could draw continental rations."

Benjamin Mooney and John York enlisted July 10, 1780 in the Third Regiment "for New Durham", which term meant that they did not necessarily live in the town they enlisted for. But a Benjamin Mooney was a settler here in 1770; in 1784, a Lt. Benjamin Mooney and an Ens. John York were listed on the town's poll tax list.

John Doe and John Colomy of New Durham and Joseph Buzzell of New Durham Gore enlisted for two months' service Sept. 21, 1781, for defense of the Northern frontiers of the State in Capt. Jacob Smith's Company of Rangers.

Samuel Small was of Rochester, John Bryant of Middleton: both men were hired by New Durham to fill its quota. They served six months at West Point in 1781.

Benjamin Libbey of New Durham Gore and James Runnals of New Durham were sent to Rhode Island in July, 1779 by Col. Badger to serve under Col. Hercules Mooney. The same Libbey gave his address as "New Durham" when he went in for Gilmanton to West Point for six months in Aug. 1781. Joseph Morrill of the Gore served in Gen. Stark's regiment in 1776; as a result of smallpox contracted in the service, he became almost totally blind and received a pension for life.

In July, 1782, New Durham was called upon for four men to make up its quota, and "hearing that the Town had no credit for their men formerly sent by said Town . . . voted that Capt. Robert Boody be the person to apply to the Committee of Safety . . . and present the returns and claims to certain soldiers employed in said service by said town and certify the same."

This touched off a little local war in the case of David Doe, both Rochester and New Durham claiming that he was of their quota. It was finally proved through many depositions that though he worked in Rochester, his home was in New Durham and therefore belonged to this town's quota. The case for Robert Cason (Carson or Corson) was stated by Capt. John Colomy and Josiah

Doe — depositions to the effect that he (Cason) came to New Durham and made his home with Capt. Robert Boody in March, 1775; that "He had no other home in this country but Capt. Robert Boody's in New Durham". Finally all claims were settled.

Several men, whose names are familiar in New Durham records, came here to make their homes after the war. Samuel Runnals, Esq., of Durham, was Captain of a Company under the command of Col. Hercules Mooney for the defense of Rhode Island in 1779. He moved to this town in 1782-3, married and had ten children. Lt. Asa Folsom, who served with Capt. Drowne in Rhode Island later moved here. Col. Thomas Tash, who commanded a regiment of New Hampshire men in 1776, moved here with his family in 1783. Zebulon Davis of Rochester and Elisha Thomas of Newmarket, both of whom were in Col. Tash's regiment, also came to New Durham to live, as did John Davis of Kittery, Capt. Joseph Berry and Benjamin Randal. Others may have been Jonathan Folsom, Lt. Stephen Berrey and Lt. Thomas Hays, though we have no proof.

The end of the war did not always mean the end of suffering. The following documents are examples of the aftermath of war.

This petition was addressed to the General Assembly, dated Jan. 4, 1787:

"Humbly Sheweth Elisha Thomas of New Durham in the County of Strafford, Yeoman, that in the Year 1776, he inlisted into Capt John Gordon's Company as a private Soldier, in the Regiment under the Command of Col. Thomas Tash of this State in the federal Service, that in the Month of November in the same year, at the Alarm at Planks Point on North River State of New York in Discharging his Gun, his Left hand, was torn 'to Pieces, by bursting of said Gun, and his Thumb carried away, and his Fingers and hand rendered almost wholly useless, by Means whereof, he suffered the most excruciating Pain for a long Time, & has ever Since been in a great Measure, deprived of the Means of gaining a Subsistance for himself & a numerous Family of Children — Wherefore Your Petitioner most Humbly Prays this honorable Assembly to take his Case in their wise and equitable Consideration and make him such Grant, or Allowance as Justice and Humanity may dictate for the Relief of himself & a Poor and Indegent Family and as in Duty Bound he will ever Pray —

Elisha Thomas"

After this accident, he was judged unfit for duty and discharged from the service, receiving a pension of twenty four shillings a month. In a report of 1789 of the invalids of the New Hampshire rolls, made by an examining committee, Sergeant Thomas is listed as dead. But he did not die as a result of war injuries. Elisha Thomas was hanged for murder.

Following is another petition:

“State of New Hampshire Concord Feb 3d 1791 —

To the Honorable the Congress of the United States of America, most humbly sheweth,

Richard Colomey of New Durham in said State — that he was a soldier in Captain Frederick Bells Company, in Col George Reids Regt in Genl Enoch Poors Brigade in the Late Continental Army — that on the nineteenth day of April, 1777 — in battle at Stillwater, he received two wounds, one in his knee & the other in his hip and the ball still remains in his hip — by means of which Your Petitioner and Memorialist is much disenabled — that by reason of his living remote in the Country being poor, ignorant & he never made application to be enrolled as an inviled penr in this State till the time of enrolling therein had expired —

Therefore he most ardently pray Your honl body to take his distressed case into consideration, and Grant him such relief in the premises as may appear Just and reasonable — and as in duty bound he will ever pray —

Test: Josh Atherton
John Young

his
Richard X Colomey
mark”

CHAPTER SEVEN

The New Government

After the close of the Revolutionary war, the colonies who had fought so valiantly for independence were faced with the gigantic task of setting up an independent government. While the Federal government was drafting a new constitution, New Hampshire, in common with other states, was holding meetings and conventions to formulate a constitution of her own. This seemed equally as important as the creation of the national constitution, it perhaps seemed more so, for the proposition of the "United States of America" was new and untried, whereas the provinces had had some form of government (under English rule, to be sure) for many years.

New Hampshire assembled her wisest men, her soldiers, patriots, lawyers and educated citizens to work out fair and just laws for the new constitution, and after five years of conventions, where the proposed laws were written, re-written and submitted to the people, (who rejected them more than once) the constitution was finally adopted in June, 1784. In Exeter, in June, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth and deciding state to ratify the national constitution.

Every town, no matter how small, took its part in this new democracy. The men served as grand and petit jurors at the General Sessions at Dover, or in the Court of Common Pleas at Gilmanston. (Men duly qualified, that is, by having rateable estates or a personal estate to the value of 40 pounds sterling.) They voted at town meetings for the "President" of the state, (1776-1792) for Senators and county officers. They elected Col. Tash to represent New Durham, the Gore and Wolfeborough in the General Assembly at Exeter in 1777-78.

Though the interest in New Hampshire's new government was keen, the voters did not always do their duty. In 1788, the warrant called the voters to meet for the purpose of choosing a representative of the State in Congress, also an Elector of this state for President and Vice-president. Perhaps it was a cold day on that December 15 for "there were no people present to bring in their votes and the Selectmen concluded to dissolve the meeting."

"Presidents" (of the State) Meshech Weare, John Langdon and John Sullivan; Governors Josiah Bartlett and John Taylor Gilman, headed the State of New Hampshire in the thirty years after the Revolutionary War and accomplished a great deal in spite of political friction. Some of the ambitious plans which the last unfortunate Royal Governor John Wentworth held so dear for his beloved New Hampshire were well carried out by these men.

Many just laws were passed which were of great benefit to the people. One important one was the establishment of the district system in schooling; towns were empowered to divide into districts and to raise and appropriate money for school purposes. There had been elementary education before this, of course. As early as 1719, every town of 50 households or more was required to provide a school master to teach children to read and write, and every town of 100 households or more was supposed to have a grammar school kept by "some discreet person, of good conversation, well instructed in the tongues".

New Durham's original land grant specified that there should be a portion reserved for a school house; though we find no record of a building for that purpose in the early years, we know that some sort of elementary instruction was available. In 1779 the town raised money to "hire a town school" and, for years thereafter, voted money for schooling; in 1796, \$150 was raised and a group of men appointed to collect this sum. The following year, a committee was chosen "to see school money properly laid out to approbate school masters the following year."

In 1797, the town voted:

1288698

"That the Selectmen may assess the polls and estates the present year in a sum equal to \$140 (or a less sum as they may see fit) for each school district in New Durham for the purpose of building school houses in said town, provided the said districts do not build said school houses by the first of February next to the acceptance of the school committee."

For some time, the town had been using the interest money from the sale of portions of the parsonage lots as contributions toward the support of their ministers, but as time went on, this money was more often set aside for the support of a school. The teaching, before school houses were built, was often done by school masters who traveled from district to district, boarding with different families, teaching the children of the household and neighboring children. Reading, writing and spelling were the principle subjects, with simple arithmetic added for the older children. The teachers were paid six to eight dollars a month and out of this paid one dollar a week for their board.

When the districts were mapped out, the residents in each were taxed for the building and support of the school. These buildings were simply constructed of one room, a fireplace for heat and benches for the pupils. The older boys took turns toting the wood and tending the fire, the girls used brooms of bound twigs to sweep the floor. Later in the 1800's, iron stoves, desks and blackboards were installed. Children walked to school through all kinds of weather.

There were fourteen districts originally, but as the population shifted, the number of school houses diminished, and as the number lessened, the schools were kept open more weeks in the year! School

committees were organized in later years, and they took their jobs seriously. They hired and fired the teachers, visited schools regularly and when the Town reports were published, the School committee gave a detailed report of each school, with very candid and sometimes unflattering estimates of the teachers' ability!

Compared to the advantages of today, these schools, some within the memory of some of our senior citizens, might appear to have been crude and poor, but many country girls and boys received excellent instruction there, and in later life were proud to have attended a one-room country school.

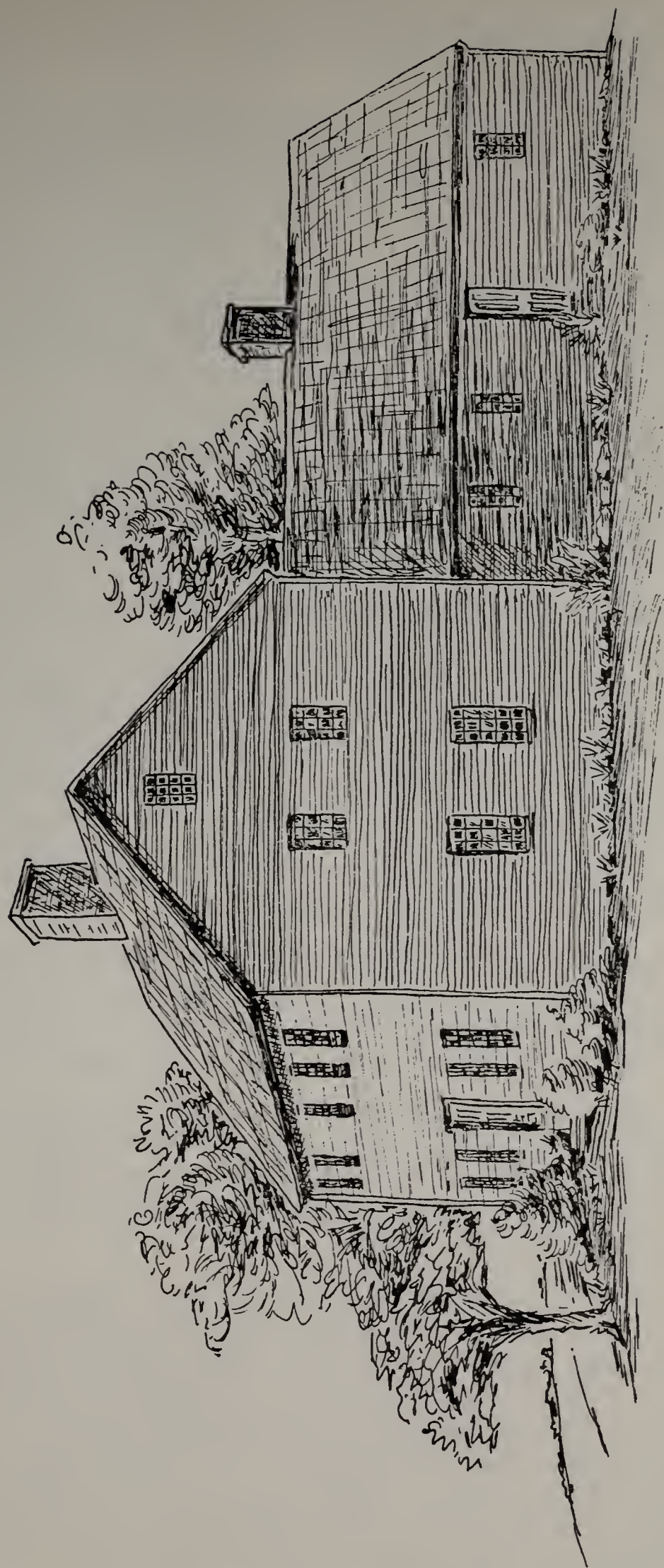
The northwest section of the original land grant, which was bounded by the southeasterly shore of "Merrymeeting" (Alton) Bay and ran to the water's edge on the north, was known as New Durham Gore. Since the main activities in early settlements such as religious services, town meetings and other gatherings were held in the Meeting House or nearby tavern, the inhabitants of the Gore found themselves so far removed from the center as to make it difficult, if not impossible to participate in any civic affairs.

The residents of the Gore were also expected to pay their share of the salary paid to Mr. Porter, the minister. This quite likely caused some resentment, for Mr. Porter, in the four years he was here (1773-1777), divided his time between preaching at the Meeting house, on the Ridge, at the Gore and in the Army, so perhaps he didn't give them their money's worth.

In the winter of 1777, the settlers in that part of town gathered at the home of Joseph Roberts and set up a governing body of their own, choosing Joseph Roberts, Timothy Davis and Charles Rogers "gentlemen selectmen"; the same Roberts Town Clerk, and Jacob Chamberlin, (the first white, or non-Indian child born in that section) as constable. They continued to govern themselves apart from New Durham from that time on.

In 1788, New Durham received a petition from Joseph Pearce and others to "set off a part of New Durham to the Gore as a parish by itself," and the town voted to appoint Thomas Tash, Esq. an agent in behalf of the town to oppose it. But the Gore set out in earnest to disannex itself. Six petitions were made to the Provincial (later, State) legislature before the seventh was successful. In March, 1796, New Durham sent a committee to perambulate the town lines "in the second division nearest the Gore and nearest Middleton and make such alterations as they may judge reasonable." On June 16, 1796, the Gore, together with other acreage, was incorporated as Alton.

An inventory of the town was taken in 1784 by Robert Boodey, who was paid two dollars for doing it. There were 94 men paying poll taxes and they owned altogether 84 oxen, 124 cows and 47 horses. There were four mills running, all at a profit.



Home and Tavern of Josiah Edgerly in 1793 on the Bay road. The New Durham Library Society was established here. It was later the home and Tavern of George Ela; now owned by Mrs. Charles Bennett.

Four postal routes through the state had been established in 1791 and while service was still slow, it was more orderly and dependable than the hap-hazard deliveries of former years. Roads were widened and improved, bridges repaired and new ones built, which made travel easier.

In June, 1795, it was voted to erect four "post guides" in town under the direction of the Selectmen, similar to those in Dover. Capt. George Burnham bid for them and did the job for \$9.00. Later Joseph Jackson made three more for \$5.00.

The State constitution was revised again, Thomas Tash Jr. being a delegate to the convention that met Sept. 7, 1791 in Exeter. The following spring "it was laid before the town, the amendments . . . proposed to the Constitution and took the minds of the People upon the same." They later accepted them.

In March, 1793, 67 votes were cast for the first "Governor" of the State of New Hampshire, His Excellency Josiah Bartlett, Esq. In 1795, the English monetary system was abolished and money was counted in dollars and cents thereafter.

A great interest in learning was evidenced by the formation of the New Durham Library Society in 1796, composed of some forty members, "each of whom have paid four dollars apiece for the use of said Society which money has been laid out to the best advantage in furnishing said Library with the best and most useful collection of books for the use of the members". Among the purchases were "A View of Religions", 1791, by Hannah Adams and dedicated to John Adams, Vice-president of the United States; "Sacred Biography"; many volumes of Shakespeare; "The Busy Body", a comedy; English history and a few books of poetry.

The Library was kept at the home of Josiah Edgerly. Since he was also licensed "to keep a public tavern at his dwelling house", the thought occurs to us that the town of New Durham must have been unique in having a Library and a bar in the same building!

The first years of the nineteenth century brought more improvements and new laws for the State of New Hampshire and these were of great benefit to large and small towns alike. Progress was somewhat impeded, however, when the United States declared war on England on June 18, 1812.

More than 2000 New Hampshire men were called to serve in the small army and navy of the Republic, and again New Durham men rose to the need of their country. A battalion of Artillery was stationed at Fort Washington for the protection of Portsmouth harbor and was under the command of Colonel Edward Long. One of the several companies which remained until the danger of British attack on that port was past was headed by Reuben Hayes and included many New Durham men. They enlisted Oct. 3, 1814, for sixty days. Alfred Smith was 1st Lieut., Thomas Tash (3rd) 2nd Lieut.,

Nicholas Grace Sergeant, David Durgin, Corporal, Joseph Berry and Asa Davis, Musicians. Privates in Capt. Hayes' company from New Durham included the following:

William Davis
Ephraim Chamberlain
John Chamberlain
Asa Libby
John Hurd
Stephen T. Davis
Edmund Tibbetts
Benjamin Berry
William Chamberlain
John Webster

David Willey, Jr.
Samuel Davis
John Davis
George Durgin
Samuel Kenneson
John Willey
Jacob Tash
David Davis
Paul M. Runnals

Aaron Bennett, Corp., and John Coleman, Fifer, served in Lt. Nathaniel Burley's company; Timothy Langley and Jacob Colomy were in Capt. John D. Harty's company, and Zacheus Perkins a Sergeant in Capt. Joseph Kimball's company.

Capt. James Hardy's company enlisted on August 11, 1814, for three months, and included the following men from New Durham:

John Garland, Sergeant
Isaac Pinkham, Sergeant
Stephen Chamberlain
Jacob Chamberlain
Sirpless Davis
John Grace
Jacob Hanson

John Leach
Josiah Main
Jonas Trefethen
Stephen Webster
Jeremiah Willey
Joseph Willey
Stephen Willey

There were probably others, but since place names are not always recorded in the muster rolls, we cannot name them for certain.

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Murder of Peter Drowne

A true and factual account of a local tragedy is usually in itself sufficiently horrifying to satisfy the most morbid taste, but in the re-telling of a tale — even over a short period of time, — it collects many embellishments. When the story has been repeated for 174 years, it has collected enough imaginative additions as to almost obliterate the truth. But here is the story; as Mr. Ripley used to say, "Believe it or not."

We do not know where Peter Drowne originally came from. He witnessed a deed for Col. Tash in 1767, probably not in this town; he was a Captain in the army in Rhode Island in 1778 and he is listed then as "from New Durham", but the first mention of his name here was in 1780, when he was chosen Town clerk, a position he held again from 1782 until Feb. 4, 1788. He also served as Selectman for four years; as a Lot Layer, accompanied by Capt. Samuel Runnals, he surveyed the parsonage lot in the second division in 1786. There is no evidence that he owned a house or had wife or children. His recorded possessions in 1784 were a horse and 230 acres of "wild land".

Elisha Thomas served as a private soldier under command of Col. Tash in 1776. He was married and the father of a "numerous family of children", to quote his words, and lived on the main road about halfway between Fulling Mill brook and Willeys' Mills. He served as Constable in 1780 and '83, which office then included the duties of Tax Collector.

On the night of February 4, 1788, a group of men, including Col. Tash and one of his sons, were gathered in a tavern at New Durham corner. Some say that it was Ela's tavern, but of course Mr. Ela didn't own a tavern until much later. Some say it was "Randall's" tavern. It might have been Major Mooney's big tavern at the cross road to Middleton. Anyway, no matter.

Many of the men there that night had served in the Revolutionary war. We can readily imagine that on any night at the tavern, the war was fought over and over again. What the argument was all about on that particular night, we shall never know, but it grew heated, and Elisha Thomas, in furious anger, produced a stone and started to attack one of the men. Capt. Drowne stepped between them and took Thomas to one side to try to reason with him, but in his rage Thomas drew a knife and stabbed Drowne in the chest. He died a few hours later.*

* Another version has it that Thomas intended to kill Abraham Libby, but in the darkness stabbed Drowne with a butcher knife from the tavern kitchen. Learning his mistake, he cried "I have killed my best friend!"

The knife still in his hand, Thomas attempted to escape, and Col. Tash's son was wounded several times while trying to prevent it. He was soon caught, however, and taken to the jail in Dover. Someone rode to Thomas' home to tell his wife of the tragedy, whereupon she, in great despair, took her youngest child of six to a neighbor's for tending and set out for Dover to see her husband. On the return trip her horse ran away and in the resulting fall, she broke three ribs.

But this was not the end of the unfortunate woman's grief: when she eventually reached home she found that her house had burned to the ground and her other five children were dead in the fire!

Col. Tash presided as Justice at Elisha Thomas's trial for murder; he was found guilty and was said to be the first man to be hanged in New Hampshire.

We could end the story here and it would probably be better if we did, but in the course of our research, we found several recorded items that seemed curious indeed. Who was the Elisha Thomas who was chosen Pound Keeper 11 years later in 1797, and Collector of school money in 1801? In that same year, the Selectmen described a road to be laid out "beginning . . . of the lot of land on which Elisha Thomas Dweling house NOW STANDS". And said Thomas signed a receipt for \$20 damages paid by the town for the road that was to run through his land.

But in 1808, his name is written in the town records for the last time. The town voted "that the Selectmen immediately open a road laid out some time since through part of Lot # 60 . . . formerly owned by Elisha Thomas and now owned by Gideon Davis."

We shall leave it to the reader to solve this one.

CHAPTER NINE

The Meeting House

Timothy Murray and Shadrach Allard reported to the Proprietors in 1770 that "Thar is the Meeting House Inclosed, Shingled and under floor laid under pined and window frames in and no more finished towards it."

It is small wonder that, with the settlers working every daylight hour to build their own homes, clear land and fell trees (to fulfill the requirements of the land grant) that this building was several years in the making. For this Meeting House was a two-storied affair, the specifications calling for it to be forty two by thirty five feet, the posts to be twenty feet "with proportionable timbers fit for such a building", and it was to have twenty five windows.

The first Town meeting was held at this Meeting House Monday, the second day of March at ten o'clock in the forenoon, 1772.

The site was a rocky ledge on a high point of land at what was soon to be known as New Durham Corner. The lofty elevation was necessary; not, as some liked to think, that they would be that much nearer to God in His heaven but for the more practical reason that it was a better vantage point from which to protect themselves from marauding Indians, who had been known to attack gatherings of voters or worshippers, or to steal their horses while the hymns were being sung.

Just what the seating arrangements were in the twenty years after its completion, we do not know. There were no heating facilities of any kind — that, and the absence of proper pews, may have been very good reasons for many town meetings held elsewhere. Religious services were conducted there by Rev. Nathaniel Porter during his short ministry in New Durham; in February, 1779 the town voted that "Mr. Randal shall preach in the Meeting House."

In 1791, the town began to take steps toward improvement of the interior of the building. In these and subsequent plans, there was not a word about providing any heat! One supposes that if the congregation were seated in enclosed pews with warm stones at their feet and entered into prayers and psalm-singing with enough gusto, they could keep from freezing.

On June 6 of that year, a meeting was held in this manner:

"Met agreeably to notification . . . and chose Capt. Samuel Runnals Moderator Pro Tem. The articles of the sale of the pews in the Meeting House at public vendue are as follows: Vizt: The



The Meeting House at New Durham Corner, completed in 1772. Originally a two-story building with 25 windows, it was cut down to its present size in 1838 by order of the Selectmen.

highest bidder to be the purchaser. 2nd: the privileges of the pews to be sold only and the purchaser of each pew to build his own pew . . . The purchasers are to give their notes for the respective sums they shall bid . . . which sums shall be paid in merchantable white pine boards or white Oak lumber at Dover landing at the current market price at or before the first day of April next . . .”

The auction then took place, the prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$15.50. The gentlemen who bid at this first sale for the privilege of building their own pews were: Lt. Stephen Berry, Lt. Joseph Berry, Lt. Joseph Wille, Mr. John Roberts, Samuel Runnals, Shadrach Allard, Thomas Tash, Jun., Sam Wille, Joseph Durgin, Stephen Berry, Jun., Josiah Edgerly, Joseph Mooney, Ebenezer Durgin, Capt. John Colomy, Capt. Samuel Runnals, Benjamin Edgerly, John Edgerly, Col. Thomas Tash, Benjamin Berry, Joseph Durgin, Daniel Colomy, Capt. George Burnham, Joseph Mason, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Evans.

Now that the pews were under way, other improvements were planned, as follows:

Thursday, June the 7th, 1792

“Voted: To let out the building of the porch to the Meeting House to the lowest bidder, and to be of the following dimensions namely: it shall be ten feet wide by the Meeting House and twelve feet deep — and the Ridge pole to be even in height to the eaves of the Meeting house and it is to be finished and completed in the following manner, to wit: there shall be two doors below and one window in the front and a pair of stairs of three flights and a door to enter into the Gallery — and to be shingled and clapboarded and underpinned in a suitable manner. . . . set up to George Davis . . . at \$39.50 . . . to be built within six months.”

June 9th, 1792

“Voted: that the pulpit and canopy be built according to that in Mr. Powers’ Meeting house in Gilmanton.

Set up the building, the Pulpit, Canopy, Windows, Deacons’ seat and Stairs to be completed in five months from this date — . . . struck off to Samuel Runnals and Josiah Edgerly for 98 dollars.”

Sept. 22, 1792

“Voted to remove the singing seats into the galleries.

Voted: to reduce the alleys (excepting the Broad alleys and Door alleys) to 2 feet and a half, instead of three feet wide.

Voted: to move Col. Tash and Capt Colomy’s pews on the floor of the Meeting House into the room of the former singing seats.

Voted: Mr. Thos. Edgerly eight dollars for the six pillars being his account brought in for the same. Set up the building of the

Parsonage pew and long seats on the floor four in number and placing of the pillars . . . and it was struck off to Josiah Edgerly . . . for \$13.50”

In that same year, it was voted to build a Town pound. It was to be of round timber, built near Mr Samuel Gilman’s land; he agreeing to give the land and timber. Abraham Libbey agreed to build it for \$6, and was made pound keeper. The stone pound, still standing behind the Meeting House, “the wall to be 6 feet thick at the bottom and 2 feet thick at the top, 30 feet square” was built, after many postponements, in 1809.

In the next thirty years, the Meeting House saw its heyday, being the locale of regular and special town meetings and church services, which in those days were often “revival meetings”, scenes of great emotion and excitement, to say the least. The new church on the Ridge was built in 1819 and from then on, the building on New Durham Corner was known as “the old Meeting House”. Wind, weather and stray cattle were taking their toll and though many votes were passed to repair it, replace glass or paint it, etc., these decisions were not often carried out.

On March 30, 1835, it was finally voted not to repair the building, and that the inhabitants “do relinquish all their right . . . to the owners of the Pews in said house.” In March of the next year they considered selling the land on which it stood and appointed a committee to investigate a new site and the probable expense of a new Town house. But the urgency of buying a farm in which to house and care for the town poor took precedence and the plans for a new Town house were abandoned. In March, 1838 it was voted:

“That Samuel Runnals, Jeremiah Edgerly, Mr. Jones and others shall bring back that part of the old Meeting House which they took away, or take the remainder of said house away.” And also voted at the same time:

“That the old Meeting House shall be cut down to a one story house and that the Selectmen shall superintend the doing of the same and they shall cause said house to be repaired in a manner sufficient and comfortable to hold the annual town meeting in next March.”

Thus the building took on the appearance that is familiar to-day. Town meetings continued to be held there until the new Town House was built on the Plains in 1907. The property was purchased by Zanello D. Berry in 1912 and has been maintained by the Berry family ever since.

It stands today sheltered with a new roof, its beautiful windows boarded up against vandals; a mute reminder that here it was that the founders of our town strove mightily to “maintain good order” in the Town of New Durham.

CHAPTER TEN

The First Ministers

Rev. John Addams had presumably come with the early settlers, for he was here in 1765, being named one of the "commissioners". There were four ministry or parsonage lots within the town limits; the Meeting House was built on Lot # 10 and a house on Lot # 9, which tradition says was the home of the "first settled minister in New Durham". John Davis, who fought in the Revolution, brought his wife Elizabeth and their children from Kittery to this house in 1787. One of their children had drowned near their former home and Mrs. Davis wanted to move far away from the dangers of the ocean. Mrs. George H. Jones, now a resident of Rochester, is the great-granddaughter of John Davis, and lived here during her early years.

Mr. Addams paid non-resident taxes on Lot #41 in the second division for many years, but other than that we know nothing of him.

In September of 1772, the town was apparently without benefit of clergy and voted to enlist the help of the Proprietors in "settling and maintaining a minister among us". They chose Capt. James Stillson, James Berry and Robert Boodey as a committee to give Rev. Nathaniel Porter a call, and voted sixty pounds lawful money for his support yearly. Mr. Porter was then 28 years old — a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1768 and a Congregationalist.

Even before his acceptance, the town voted to build a house for him. In April 1773, they finally agreed to the dimensions and specifications of the dwelling, as follows:

"to buld a house tow story hig thorty eaght Fet long and twenty eight feet wide and to be compleated. That this house is to be borded and clabborded and Shingled and a Chimnely Bult and seller Duge and stond and one end glased and two rumes fitted to Dwell in in fifteen monthes from the Date here of this sad house is to be Built on the Ministers Lot No

In twelve months after the above Mentened gob is Compleated to glase the Remainder of sad house and fit one room more and from five years from the Date here of the sad house is to be compleated.

Robert Boodey Nathan Keneston Shadrach Allard is a Commetey to see the work of sad house compleated . . . that each Labourer shall have two shillings and sixpence Lawful money per day "

In August of 1773, Mr. Porter accepted the call in this manner:

“To the Inhabitants of the town of New Durham:

Having deliberately considered the call which you have given me to settle with you in the Gospel ministry, am inclined to think from the unemnity there seems to be among you and other concerning circumstances that tis my duty to accept and do hereby signify my acceptance of said call and being sensible of my insufficiency for these things for so ardent and important a work do earnestly request your innocent prayers to the Throne of Grace for me that I may be assisted and strengthened therefore that I may discharge my duty faithfully, be instrumental in saving souls and finally rejoice with you all in the Kingdom of Glory.

Nathaniel Porter.”

The very same month, the town voted to reduce his salary to forty pounds! Nevertheless, Mr. Porter settled in New Durham on September 8, 1773.

The house was not finished for three years. The American Revolutionary war had flared up in 1775, times were hard and money scarce. The Proprietors had never advanced any money for the support of the minister and now, of course, never would. The town was forced to make an assessment on all “polls and ratable estates” for all the money now due the minister and appealed to the inhabitants of the Gore to meet with them and work out some agreement for sharing the preaching and the salary.

In 1777, Mr. Porter demanded his salary, including payment for the time he was absent from the area serving as a Chaplain in the army. The town objected to this and angry meetings took place. In June of that year, Mr. Porter offered as an easement, to give up his house “now built and standing” if they would pay him in full. This was not accepted and he finally had to give in; he abated twenty pounds, gave up his house, and, as a result of a church council meeting, held in October, 1777 at the home of Mr. James Berry, it was mutually agreed that Mr. Porter be dismissed.*

During the winter of 1777-1778, some men from New Durham chanced to hear a preacher who so impressed them with his sincerity and devoutness that they asked him to come to their town and administer to them. Shortly afterward he came to New Durham, and preached with such success that they entreated him to move here and make his home with them. After still another visit, accompanied by fasting and prayer, this man was convinced that it was the will of the Lord, and he agreed. He said, however, “I have a family and am not able to move them any further than I can carry them by water; and if you will carry them and me to your town, I don’t expect that you will let us lie outdoors, but I expect that you will find me a house and I mean that these hands of mine

A year later, he was installed in Conway. In 1814, both Harvard and Dartmouth Colleges conferred on him the degree of D.D., the first instance in which this honor was bestowed on a minister in Strafford county. He resigned after 37 years of ministry in Conway, and died in 1837, aged 92.

shall administer to my necessities." On the 23rd of March, 1778, Mr. Benjamin Randal left Newcastle with his family; on the 26th they arrived at New Durham where he made his home for the rest of his life.

New Durham has always taken great pride in acknowledging Benjamin Randal to be the founder of the Free Will Baptist Church in America. But there was another claimant for the honor, John Shepard, Esq., of Gilmanton. From the "History of Gilmanton," written by Daniel Lancaster and published in 1845, we quote:

"His (Shepard's) character was somewhat noted. He claimed to be the originator of the Free Will denomination. In the last year of his life, he stated it as a solemn fact which he desired to have recorded in this History, that the Free Will system was all opened to his mind by the Spirit of God, months before any other person knew it — that he then revealed it in March 1780, to Eld. Edward Locke and Elder Tozar Lord, and with them spent a week locked up in the house owned by Esquire Piper in Loudon, on Clough's hill, fasting and praying, and seeking the will of the Lord. After which they mutually ordained each other, and there founded the Free Will Church. The next week they visited Elder Randall of New Durham, and ordained him in the new denomination, who being a more public man afterwards had the reputation of being the originator of the scheme which he received of them."

There is no doubt at all, however, that Elder Randal worked as hard, if not harder than any other man to establish, develop and expand the new faith. Most of his life was dedicated to God, for he had a strong and loving belief in Him and he worked for Him with unswerving faith, devotion and humility.

The oldest son of Captain Benjamin and Margaret Mordantt Randal was born on Feb. 7, 1749, in Newcastle, in the Province of New Hampshire. He was a serious and studious child, who, with the aid of his parents, acquired a fair education. For ten years he sailed the seas with his father, then became apprenticed to a sail maker; in 1771 he settled in Newcastle, hired a sail loft and started out on his own. On Nov. 28, of the same year, he married Joanna Oram, daughter of Captain Robert and Joanna Mitchell Oram.

His dissatisfaction with the church led to his separation from it; forming his own beliefs, he started reading and talking about them, and people listened. After service in the Revolutionary war, he continued in the face of dissension and controversy "steadily pursuing his journey and delivering his message."

He traveled many thousands of miles around New England preaching, attending meetings, performing marriage ceremonies, visiting the ill and afflicted and praying with those about to die. The way was not always easy for he met opposition in many places, suffering danger and hardship, storms and accidents. He went on



Zachariah Boodey built a log house here in 1769, on the south side of New Durham Ridge, later framed it in. The first organizational meeting of the first Free Will Baptist Church was held in the east front room on June 30, 1780 by Elder Benjamin Randal. This house is still standing.

horseback through the sparsely settled communities, sometimes accompanied, but often alone, ill, cold and hungry.

Elder Randal worked earnestly for the church in New Durham, where he spent several days, or, more rarely, a week or so every month. He lived on the northerly side of the road on New Durham Ridge with his wife and eight children, to whom he was reported to have been a devoted husband and father. In the early days he held many a meeting at the home of Zachariah Boodey, his neighbor and friend whose son Joseph he assisted in ordaining to the work of the ministry in 1799.

In 1804 his health began to fail; this did not deter him however, for in 1805 he reported in his journal that, though quite unwell, he had traveled 2090 miles that year! After nine months' confinement at home, he died on Oct. 22, 1808. At his request, a sermon was delivered by his friend and biographer Elder John Buzzell, from 2nd Timothy: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

In the family graveyard which was the site that he had chosen, was buried the man whose nature was so large, whose heart was so big, who had such faith in his God that he could not endure the thought that man must suffer without just cause.

Joanna Oram Randal died on May 12, 1826. Their children, the first three born in Newcastle, the rest born in New Durham, were:

Robert Oram, b. Dec 3, 1772; d. Oct 23, 1848 in Morgan, Ind., m. 1) Hannah Davis of New Durham in 1797. 2) Widow Hannah Webber of Ohio.

Mary (Polley) Shannon, b. Feb 24, 1774, d. Feb 23, 1845 in Barnstead.
m. Joseph Hall of Barnstead in 1795.

Benjamin Walton, b. May 4, 1776, d. Sept 24, 1843 in New Durham.
m. Sarah Parsons of Edgecomb, Maine, in 1801.

Margaretta Fredericka, b. Aug 8, 1778,
m. Stephen Parsons of Edgecomb, Maine, in 1801.

Urselah Pinkham, b. Oct 15, 1780
m. Samuel Runnals, Jun, of Farmington in 1800.

William, b. Oct. 30, 1782, d. Jan 29, 1845 in Dover.
m. Love Murray.

Joanne, b. Oct 24, 1785, m. Timothy Horne of Farmington, in 1814.

Henry Allen, b. Feb 10, 1788, m. 1) Eliza Shepard, 2) Mary Ann Clark.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Later Ministers and Churches

Though the loss of their minister was a grievous blow, the parish carried on. Moses Cheney, Minister of the Gospel, was here for a brief period in 1810-11, but Elder Joseph Boodey had a longer career which started in New Durham in 1810 through 1851, perhaps longer.

Joseph's father, Zachariah Boodey, moved from Madbury to New Durham in 1769, buying Lot # 49 on New Durham Ridge. He first built a log house, where Joseph was born in 1773. (Other sons were John and Daniel) Zachariah was a conscientious citizen who for many years filled his share of town offices and supported the church with zeal. He was a good friend of Elder Randal, and it is said that the first organizational meeting of the Free Will Baptist Church was held in the east front room of Zachariah Boodey's (now framed) house, on June 30, 1780. A description of the house, written for a newspaper in 1902 follows:

"The house is a one-story-and-a-half affair, with the door in the middle. The floor of this room was made of three-inch planks, but worn somewhat thinner by the footsteps of the large families that have pressed its surface.

This room is in very nearly the condition that it was when this first meeting was held. The fire place and brick oven, bellows, warming pan, shovels and broad shelf over the fireplace still remain. The walls are wainscotted half way . . . to the ceiling that is formed of dark, smoke-seasoned boards. An old fashioned dresser, desk, chest of drawers and three old tables make up the furniture. One of these tables was used as a pulpit at this first meeting and here one finds the old Psalm book and Bible used, also a larger Bible used in the first church." This house is still standing today.

It was said, too, that "The first grass seed sown on the farm was brought in Mrs. Boodey's pocket from Madbury in 1769. When a patch was cleared and burned, the seed was 'hacked in' and watched with more interest than a lady would care for her flower garden now."

Elder Joseph Boodey "enlisted among the soldiers of the Cross" at the age of eighteen, and at twentyfive, "was called to go and preach salvation to and fro." He was a man of more than ordinary ability, with a keen memory and a fondness for writing verse. In 1866 he wrote a long poem of thanksgiving for a good life and kind friends, containing the lines:

"Ninety three years I've lived to see
God's mercy has protected me,
In sickness, sorrow or distress,
I've been preserved and kindly blessed."

He was married on Nov. 13, 1800 to Marcy Pike of Middleton; their children were Jacob, Zachariah, Socrates, Betsy, Joseph and two others. Elder Boodey died May 12, 1867 at the age of 94.

Elder Nathaniel Berry came to New Durham from Farmington with his second wife, Mary Young Berry, shortly after their marriage in 1824. He, like many other ministers of the time, traveled around the New England country performing his religious duties. Elder Berry made his home on the road to New Durham Ridge and it is still a Berry homestead. Nathaniel Berry was the great-grandfather of Mr. Roy W. Berry and Mr. Joseph Berry. He died on Oct. 15, 1865, aged 76 years.

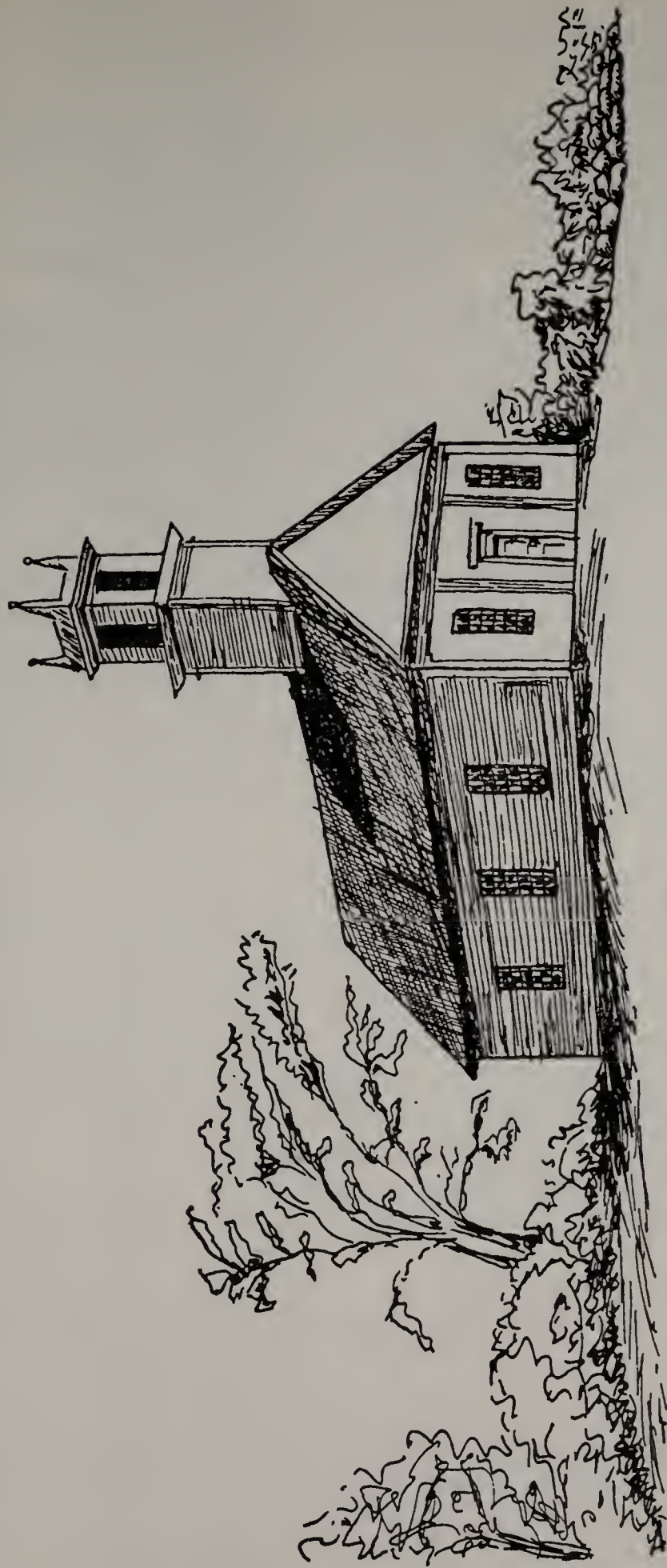
Other ministers who followed were Elders William K. Lucas, Josiah Glines, J. R. Gates, Wesley Burnham, David L. Edgerly and Joseph Franklin Joy. Elder Glines lived in New Durham in the second division, where he preached at the Meeting House there. Elder Edgerly was born in Alton and lived on New Durham Ridge. Elder Joy was born in New Durham in one of the oldest families in town, and was minister of the church here from 1875 to 1863.

Elder Benjamin Randal, though unmindful of worldly and material things, would have rejoiced to have seen the tangible expression of the strength of the Free Will Baptist organization, made manifest in the beautiful church built on New Durham Ridge ten years after his passing. This is a proud landmark today, visible from almost every part of town and visited by scores of people from all over the United States when services are held there during the summer months.

The plans and dimensions were drawn up in September and October of 1818, the laborers to receive four shillings (about fifty cents) a day. The pews were put up for sale at the same time and the building was completed the following summer. Those in charge of choosing the site, buying the lot and supervising the construction were Daniel Durgin, Jun., Durell Stevens, Abraham Chamberlin, Jeremiah Palmer, David Kelley and Capt. Stephen Davis.

Others who signed as supporters of the new church were:

Ephraim Chamberlin	Joseph Willey
Wentworth Hayes	Stephen Chamberlin
Daniel Evans	Richard Colomey
Samuel Jones	Benjamin Grace, Jun.
Samuel Joy	Andrew Grace
Ebenezer Chamberlin	David York
David Ellis	Samuel Ham
John Berry	Ezekial Perkins
Isaac Chamberlin	John Grace
Asa Libby	James Perkins
Dodavah Pinkham	John Perkins
Boodey Crockett	Thomas Davis
Samuel Willey	Jonathan Edgerly



Free Will Baptist Church on New Durham Ridge. Built in 1818-19.

Stephen Davis
David Willey
Joseph French
Josiah Edgerly
Francis Hayes
Henry Dearborn
John Chamberlin
David H. Perkins
Benjamin W. Randall
Henry Lougea
Richard Palmer
David Kennison
Edward Presson
George Trefren
Enoch Akins
John Garland
Ebenezer Durgin
David T. Libbey
Lemuel Roberts

Ephraim Pinkham
Isaac Pinkham
Samuel Jones
Jacob Chamberlin
David Perkins
John Bennett
Ebenezer Berry
John Runnals
James Wilkison
Elijah Davis
Aaron Palmer
William Jones
John Burley
Stephen Webster
Ebenezer D. Willey
Elisha Davis
George Durgin, Jun.
Nathaniel B. Runnals
George Ela

The Free Will Baptist church had been organized but two years when, in 1782, exponents of the Shaker cult filtered into New England to gather laborers for their vineyard. Their principles were strange and revolutionary enough to excite the curiosity of anyone who would listen and the scarcity of pastors of any faith made their work less difficult, but the idea never took hold in this area, though Shaker communities were established at Canterbury and Enfield, New Hampshire.

The Quaker folk, however, were accepted as community members in town. On a map of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, A D 1833*, there is shown a Friends' Meeting for Worship" at New Durham. Apparently at this time it was not yet an organized meeting (a Preparative or Monthly meeting). It seems likely that it may have been related to the Friends' Meeting at Meaderboro and belonged to what was called Dover Quarterly Meeting. There was a Friends' Meeting House on the south east side of New Durham Ridge in 1856; the road leading from the present Route 11 up to the Ridge was called from that time on, the "Quaker road".

The Free Will Baptist Chapel opposite the Town Hall was moved to its present location from the Powder Mill area many years ago, and was named "Temperence Hall" for the very good reason that Temperence lectures were given there. The local Grange later used it as a meeting place. Within recent memory, pews were purchased from a church in Somersworth, and installed therein. Regular church services have been held there since. The old "horse sheds" were recently converted to a useful annex for church meetings.

* A map used as an end paper in the volume "The Quakers in the American Colonies" by Rufus M. Jones, published by McMillan in 1911 and 1923.

CHAPTER TWELVE

More Town Meetings

In compliance with State laws enacted in the early 1800's, the town boundaries were perambulated annually, the lines fixed and marked by surveyors, lot layers or Selectmen from New Durham accompanied by those of surrounding towns. The marking of this interesting junction was recorded thus:

“Whereas that Hemlock Tree being the Original corner of Barrington, Barnstead, Farmington, Alton and New Durham is blown down, Be it remembered that on the twenty eighth day of October, A D 1805, We the Selectmen of each said Towns met by previous notice and placed a rock on the identical spot where the tree stood and marked said Rock with letters as follows — B B A N F — 1805, also marked a large rock on the top with the letter W seven rods and nine links distance from said corner south eighty eight degrees east, the last mentioned rock is about four feet high and four feet one way and six the other way, done the day and year above mentioned.

Attest

Paul Hayes

Ephm Chamberlin

James Scott

Samuel Hull

David Drew, Jr.

Witness present

George Foss, 3rd

Samuel Hayes

Selectmen of Barrington

Joseph Tasker

John Jenkins, Jr.

James Brown

Selectmen of Barnstead

David Gilman

Selectman of Alton

Jonathan Folsom

Selectman of New Durham

Levi Leighton

A true copy, attest

David Willey, Town Clerk

Recorded March 10, 1806

Ephm Kimball

Selectmen of Farmington”

Another record states:

“Whereas a certain beech tree marked with sundry spots and letters and being the north westerly elbow corner of New Durham and a corner of Alton, was cut down a few years since by some person or persons unknown, by which means, there was some danger, that the spot whence tree stood might in time be forgotten and disputes arise in consequence thereof, therefore, to prevent further difficulty, we, the subscribers have, this 18th day of No-

vember, A D 1816 perambulated and run a part of the lines between New Durham and Alton leading to the said corner of said Towns, and having found and ascertained the place where the said corner tree stood, we have there placed a large stone, on which we have cut the letters N and A as Witness our hands, the day and year above written.

David Gilman	}	Selectmen	Samuel Willey	}	Selectmen
Charlie Rogers		of	Thomas Caverly		of
		Alton			New Durham

Thomas Tash, Lot Layer"

New Durham grew and developed in these years. District schools were built and were supported, the Library flourished, stores opened with stocks of goods to delight the housewife and farmer. The inventory taken for 1818 (yearly inventories were prescribed by law, now) showed 182 men paying poll taxes; almost twice as many as 25 years before.

The Selectmen confronted many problems, as Selectmen always have and always will. Some items were large and important, some small and seemingly unimportant. In any case, the votes were seldom unanimous. Following are some of the questions of the day, and the decisions reached:

In May, 1808, one of the articles in the warrant read:

"To give direction respecting the quality and quantum of the meats and drinks necessary to be provided for the refreshment of non commissioned officers and soldiers on battalion and regimental muster days the present year and to take some order respecting the purchase of powder for said soldiers agreeable to a law of this state passed June 18, 1807."

On June 8, 1808, the town voted: "to pay each non commissioned officer and soldier in the Town of New Durham who shall bear arms on regimental and batalion muster days twenty cents a day, which he is to receive in lieu of the meats, drinks and powder . . ."

Aug 29, 1808 "Voted that the Selectmen provide two seals to be used with the Standard of weights and measures as a Town Seal for the Town of New Durham said seals to have the letter N as a stamp or device on each of them"

Mar 20, 1809 "Voted to give Mr Isaac Chamberlin four dollars for building the bridge by or near his mills, said four dollars to be paid soon after the bridge is completed."

Jan 21, 1812 "The Town of New Durham met agreeably to notification (at the Meeting House) and first chose Reuben Hayes, Esq., Moderator, then voted to adjourn this meeting to meet immediately at the store of Smith and Davis in said Town and met accordingly."

March, 1812 "Voted ten cents premium on crows heads the ensuing year."

March 1814 "Voted Unanimously not to revise the Constitution, voters present 155.

"Voted to allow seventy five cents a day for labor on the road the ensuing year.

"Voted that Ebenezer Chamberlin be exempted from all taxation the ensuing year, in consideration of his losing his limb.

"Voted a premium of nine pence on crows heads the ensuing year."

August, 1814 "Voted that the Selectmen provide such fastening to the doors of the meeting house as they think necessary."

April, 1815 The town voted to cede to the State of New Hampshire a sufficient quantity of land out of the five acres of land belonging to the town in the Parsonage lot where the Meeting House stood, for the purpose of erecting a Gun house.

March 12, 1816 "Voted that the Selectmen of New Durham the present year lay out so much money in repairing the main road leading from Alton line by the Meeting house to Farmington line as will enable them to certify to the Court by Gentlemen living out of town that said road is sufficiently repaired to prevent a fine being laid on said town."

Nov 4, 1816 "Voted to put Nancy C.'s child to Mr Edmund Tibbetts to be kept by him until the fourth day of April next, at the rate of two shillings and seven pence per week."

March 11, 1817 "Voted that the map of the State of New Hampshire belonging to the Town of New Durham be deposited and hung up in the dwelling house of Reuben Hayes, Esq., in a convenient place for the inspection of the inhabitants of said town at large for the term of one year."

(This map went from tavern to tavern every six months or year)

February, 1819 an article in the warrant read:

"To see if the Town will vote to purchase a farm with suitable buildings thereon for the accommodation of the Town paupers in said Town and also to make suitable provision for said paupers."

(This "poor farm" did not materialize for some time)

March 1820: "Voted that the inhabitants of the Town of New Durham who live near the Meeting House corner in said Town on the Bay road (so called) suffer no neat cattle, horses, sheep or swine to run at large in the road near said corner between the 20th day of December and the 20th day of April annually on penalty

of paying fifty cents a head for each creature so found running at large as aforesaid to any person who will prosecute or sue for the same.”*

“Voted to relinquish Mr George Davis money tax for the year 1819 on account of his misfortune in losing his house by fire.”

The townspeople didn't like this vote and presented a petition to the Selectmen to reconsider.

April, 1820, “Voted, to reconsider the vote passed . . . to abate Mr George Davis's money tax for the year 1819, and that he pay said taxes to the Collector as other men.”

November, 1820 “Voted to give John Willey Jun., (money) for keeping, taking care of and supporting Paul March . . . said John Willey to provide for the said Paul March in such way and manner as his circumstances require.”

The above excerpts from the Town meeting records are only a fraction of the challenges that were faced and met by the governing body and voters of the town. There were constant, never-ending petitions for roads and bridges to be built or repaired; for boundary lines to be settled by the Lot layers and Fence viewers. The support and care of the aged, the infirm, the paupers and the children born out of wedlock were carefully considered and arrangements made, almost always at the town's expense.

* There was a reason for this rule being in effect only during the winter months. Persons traveling to and from the store or Meeting House by wagon or sleigh always carried a supply of hay or fodder for their horses. While these vehicles were “parked” outside of the place of business or worship, this supply was apt to be consumed by roving livestock!

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

The 1800's

In 1825, John Quincy Adams was President of the United States at a salary of \$25,000 a year; John C. Calhoun Vice-President at \$5,000. The national emblem had thirteen red and white stripes and twenty four white stars on a blue field.

There were twenty six academies in New Hampshire and nine colleges in New England. The New Hampshire militia consisted of three divisions of two brigades each with forty regiments in all. David Willey, Jr. was adjutant of the 23rd regiment. He was known as Col. Willey, died at 37 years of age.

Thomas Tash, Jr. was serving in the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1825. The banks nearest to New Durham were at Meredith and Dover. Justices of the Peace in New Durham were John Bennett, Reuben Hayes, Samuel Langley, Nicholas Noyes, Thomas Tash, Jr., and Samuel Willey.

David Steele was town attorney, Reuben Hayes, Jr. deputy sheriff and David Willey, Jr. coroner. Eleazer D. Chamberlain was post master; postal rates for single letters were six cents up to a distance of 30 miles, twenty five cents for over 400 miles.

The population in New Durham in 1820 was 1168, including 192 men on the poll tax list.

From earliest times well into the 1800's, rum was a staple in most New England households. No activity of any kind was undertaken without plenty of the potent fluid on hand to see it through. From planting season to haying, from haying to harvest, the rum jug went into the fields with the men and boys. No house or barn, school or church was raised, no wedding or funeral conducted, no road laid out without rum. Even respectable housewives liked a little "lace" in their tea or coffee. Regimental muster days were wild with drinking and fighting.

Drunkenness was not unusual at all and was not confined to the poorer people. In larger towns, men of position and wealth were often carried home from the tavern. Some ministers and school teachers were occasionally so affected by drink that they could hardly preach a sermon or teach their classes. Only the "strait-laced" folk made any objection, and even they were embarrassed if the closet held no spirits to serve the minister when he called.

Elder Randal was a total abstainer however, refusing to drink any kind of alcoholic beverage even when urged to do so for the possible relief of the colds and coughs from which he continually suffered. He never wavered, but preached against drinking and its harmful effects all his life.

There were many taverns in New Durham, one or more in every section of town. The Ridge, Powder Mill village (later so-called) the area of Shaw's pond, and the Plains, each had at least one, and on the Bay road, in the distance from the Meeting House to the Farmington line, there were four public taverns! In addition, the stores had liquor for retail sale, — a goodly variety, too. Many notices for town meetings specified the place to be a home or tavern, rather than the Meeting House. The icy interior of the latter was perhaps excuse enough!

In the 1820's and 1830's, sober men of good judgment throughout the state began to realize and deplore the widespread evils of intemperance. While no one considered total abolishment, it was agreed that some method be arranged of educating the people to see the demoralizing effect of over-indulgence, and that regulation of the sale of intoxicating liquor must be enforced. This was the beginning of the Temperance movement and it was well under way before any controlling legislation was successfully undertaken. Churches and most ministers espoused the cause, but merchants were wary for fear of losing patronage. Political aspirants thought long and hard as to which side of the fence they should climb. The Temperance societies visited and lectured all over the state, including New Durham, and the movement gained the attention and respect of thinking people everywhere. In 1842, Thomas Bennett, who ran a store on New Durham Ridge, was licensed "to sell spirit . . . for medical purposes and for no other purposes whatever." In 1846, he was further curtailed: "he may sell wines and spiritous liquors . . . in any quantity not less than half pint to be sold, delivered and carried away . . . for medical and mechanical purposes only."

In September, 1855, the following appointments were recorded; one to Thomas Bennett, and one to Charles Bickford, co-owner of the Downing and Bickford store.

"Appointment of an Agent for the Sale of Liquors for 1855 We, the undersigned, having confidence in your ability and integrity to perform the duties do hereby appoint you . . . an Agent for said town of New Durham for the purchase and sale of spiritous and intoxicating liquors, and Wine for the Commemoration of the Lord's Supper, hereinafter designated namely, Cognac Brandy, Holland's Gin, New England rum, Alcohol, New York Gin, Madeira Wine and Port Wine. And you are to sell said liquors and wines at the store now occupied by you . . . and at no other place.

And you are to sell said liquors and wines to be used in the Arts, or for Medicinal, Mechanical and Chemical purposes and for no other use or purpose whatever. And you are to conform to the Statute of the State of New Hampshire, passed July 14th, 1855, entitled "an act for the suppression of intemperence" And you are not to sell less than one half pint, nor more than one gallon to any person at any one time. And you are to sell at twentyfive per cent

profit. And having this appointment recorded by the Town Clerk, you shall have the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities of such office until the first day of April, 1856, or another person shall be appointed in your stead, unless sooner removed by the appointing power.

Given under our hands this 11th day of September, A.D. 1855.

Samuel Downing, Jr.,	Selectmen
Charles B. Edgerly	of
John L. Jones	New Durham

A true copy of the original

Baalis B. Tebbets, Town Clerk of New Durham."

These regulations did not completely halt the use of liquor, of course. Many were the excuses and reasons conjured up in order to buy a jug of rum! But the nights of drinking and brawling at taverns were over, and, for that reason and others, the day of the country tavern was coming to an end in any case.

In the 1800's the lot of the housewife eased materially, though a woman of today would shudder at her "conveniences". There was no plumbing or central heating, but there were many major improvements, such as the cast iron stove, now used for the cooking which had been done in the fireplace. The spinning wheels and looms were put away, for cloth in great variety could be bought by the yard. Pewter and wooden dishes were replaced by ironstone china and Staffordshire ware from England. Glass dishes came into use, brittania and glass "fluid lamps" which burned whale oil took the place of candles. This was the era of the tin peddler, whose fascinating array of wares and fund of newsy stories made his visits so welcome.

This was the time, too, of the "quilting bees". These occasions were anticipated with pleasure, for there were few social gatherings besides weddings and funerals in those days.

No bride-to-be would dream of setting up housekeeping without a supply of quilts; she and her mother and sisters worked industriously for months to prepare the "pieced" tops. When they were ready, women neighbors and friends were invited to the house where the large frame quilting frame was set up. The quilt top, batting and back were stretched and fastened tight to the frame, chalked string snapped down to mark lines, and two or three women on each side began to ply their needles. A bountiful noonday meal was served, the visitors usually contributing a pound of butter, a pail of cream or perhaps a pudding. When the light began to fail, the men would call in to accompany their womenfolk home.

Women turned to all manner of handwork in those days; they drew designs of ferns and flowers on to a backing and hooked a rug from the scraps of cloth left over from sewing. Some ambitious ones cut designs into oiled paper and stenciled the bare walls of the

rooms; we would guess that they were adept at hanging wallpaper too!

Many household items, formerly made at home, were now available at the store. An inventory which Thomas Bennett recorded in 1843 is a revealing picture of the old-time country store, with its iron stove and wood box, its shelves filled with a satisfying variety of goods. A few items on his list were:

Box stove and funnel, matches, cigars, snuff, straw bonnets (.25), band boxes, neck stocks, calico, English gingham, battiste, shaving soap, tea, salt, coffee (.08 a pound), sulphur, umbrellas, pepper, flax, nails, jugs, pitchers, hay forks, hoes, butter (.10 a pound), N. E. rum, brandy, wine, chalk, rice, bar soap, milk pails, ax handles, molasses, "rolls room paper, colored ground", buffalo skin, wheat, barley, oats, rye and beans, trunk locks, scissors, chisels, teaspoons, whip thongs, sheeting, flannel, broadcloth, bed cords, plates, glass nappies, wash bowls, tea sets, lamps, salts, ink-stands, chocolate, cough candy, lustre salts, lustre pitchers (.18) casters, fur hats, arithmeticks, geographies, readers, linsey, lawn, cambric and "chilley", Saxony, sattinet and velvet, alpaca, canvas, handkerchieves, Highland shawls, fringe, crepe, edging, insertion and footing, gloves, caps, shoes, a brass clock, sewing silk, ribbon and paint.

Though cash money was scarce in most households, a little went a long way. One dollar spent at Mr. Bennett's store in 1843 would buy a pound each of coffee, crackers, raisins, dried apples, butter, pork, soap, rice, sugar, spice, a gallon of molasses, a corn broom for Mother and a cigar for Father!

At this time all of the store-keeper's goods had to be brought to town over the road by horse-drawn wagons from Dover, the nearest large trading center. It was a two- or three-day journey.

The coming of the railroad was a real boon to these men, but others viewed its onset with alarm. Farmers predicted that the noise would make horses run away, the hens stop laying, and the cinders and smoke would set fire to their houses and fields. Many were quite positive that it would not last and that it was a great waste of money. Some of the newspapers of the day agreed.

In 1847, the charter for the Cocheco railroad was granted, the line to run from Dover through Rochester to Alton Bay. In spite of the intense rivalry between this line and the Great Falls and Conway line, culminating in the famous "Railroad Riot" of 1849, the Cocheco opened a road as far as Farmington in 1849 and went through to Alton Bay in 1851. In 1860 the name "Cocheco" was changed to "Dover and Winnipiseogee" and the road later leased to the Boston and Maine railroad.

Land damages were awarded to three New Durham men: George Ela \$2.00, Benjamin Berry \$5.00, Stephen Davis \$5.00 and to two non-resident land owners.



This house is typical of many houses in New England built from 1770 on. This one on New Durham Ridge, built around 1800, was the home of Elder David Edgerly in 1850, is now the home of Mr. William Nehring.

Transportation by railway was one of the major reasons for the closing of many country taverns which were often on winding, hilly stage-coach routes. Taverns in the larger towns continued to do business as hotels; inns and "genteel boarding houses" at scenic spots around the lake region were accessible by railway. The train carried passengers, freight and mail directly, smoothly and with (a moderate degree of) speed and comfort undreamed of in the "old days". At the depot, the train was met by a baggage wagon and greeted by inhabitants who made a practice of going down to see the train come in every day.

In 1856, a splendid map of Strafford county was published. Some of the information thereon may be of interest here.

There were 12 district schools in town. Three stores: Thomas Bennett's on New Durham Ridge, Downing and Bickford's and Sewell Randall's, plus a "shoe manufactory" at the corner of the main road leading to Merrymeeting Lake. The Free Will Baptist church, the Friends' Meeting House and the Town Farm were located on the Ridge road and there was a small Meeting House near Shaw's pond.

The Powder Mills were operating at the outlet of Merrymeeting Lake and there were grain and saw mills in several other sections.

The population numbered 1048, with one free colored,*; in 1860, it was 1173, more than ever before or since. Many of the following names, marked as having homes here, were descendants of the earliest settlers — there were often several families of the same name but we shall name them only once in each area.

At New Durham corner lived the families of Berry, Burnham, Colomy, York, Tash and Hayes. On the road from there to the Middleton line we find Rand, Witham, Tash, Willey, Hayes, Corson, Davis, Mitchell, Tebbets and Savage.

On the main Ridge road were Brooks, Roberts, Pinkham, Leighton, Jones, Randall, Edgerly, Evans, Littlefield, Willey, Chamberlain, Libbey, Hayes, Bennett and Stevens. On the road south of the Ridge are Gray, Elkins, Boodey, Joy, Penny, Horne, Stanton, Evans, Grace, Howe, Pinkham, Young, Beck and Berry.

At Downings Mills (so-called at the junction of the Merrymeeting and Bay roads) were Wentworth, Randall, Berry, Leighton, Edgerly, Rines, Hoyt, Downing, Bickford, Morrison, Glidden and Rollins. At Powder Mills Village are Morrison, Williams, Farrell, Blake, Johnson, Berry, Duffie, Edgerly and Colomy.

* This man was the son of a negro couple who worked on the Gov. John Wentworth "plantation" in Wolfeborough. They stayed on after the Governor's departure, and shortly afterward the man was killed in a logging accident. The widow's mind became deranged and she took her little son and wandered away, ending her rambles in New Durham, where they were taken in by the family of Samuel Willey. The boy was known as "Remus Willey" and lived all his long life in this town.

Other names in outlying sections include French, Caverly, Stillings, Perkins, Johnson, Mitchell, Lucas, Horne, Gleason, Dealing, Roberts, Perry, Boston, Rines, Corson, Chesley, Langley, Hunt, Kent, Webster, Willey, Miller, Coburn and Tebbets.

The care of the town's "paupers" had been a problem since the earliest years of the settlement. Wanderers coming in "without the consent of the town" were promptly banished by the constable, but legal residents who came upon hard times were the responsibility of the Selectmen. At every annual town meeting for many years, anywhere from six to a dozen persons were "put up for vendue", the old and feeble, the little children abandoned or orphaned. Families in better circumstances bid for them and were paid by the town for their care in amounts ranging from thirty seven cents a week to forty dollars or more a year. The town made every effort to locate relatives who could be made to support their kin, and what possessions these people had, such as a piece of land or a dozen sheep — even their bed and bedding — became the property of the town, to be sold at public auction. In certain cases, the town abated the taxes of residents who would take care of their own parents!

In 1828 the town reconsidered buying a farm for the town poor and appointed Joseph Boodey, Esq., Samuel Jones and Reuben Hayes, Esq. as a committee to look into it. Apparently there was no farm available, for the next year they adopted a new plan: that of "letting out" all the poor to one man; Joseph Buzzell took them, for \$299.50, he to furnish them with doctor's care, meat, drink and suitable clothing. This was done for several years, the price going up each year. In 1834, David Steele took them for \$562.00, to "provide them with suitable meats, drinks, clothing, washing, lodging, medical aid, nursing, etc., and in case of the decease of any of them to decently bury them."

In 1839, Captain Benjamin Savage took over the care of the poor for \$500.00, plus the occupancy, use and income of "the farm belonging to said town." The next year, they "bound out" all the children at the farm who were old enough to work.

In 1841, there was lively discussion about selling the farm, but they did not do so; instead, the Overseer of the Poor made some changes in the management. In 1866, another committee was appointed to see about selling it, but it was not done. In 1868 it cost \$1,000 to operate the farm; around 1870, it was finally given up, the old and feeble and the orphan children boarded out as formerly, receiving board and care, medicine and finally burial at the town's expense.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Mills

One of the stipulations in the charter of New Durham, dated May 5, 1749, was that "there be 20 acres of Land Left in Some Suitable Place for a Privilege and Accomodation of a Saw mill . . . the owner . . . of such mill Shall Saw the Logs of sd. inhabitants to the halves;" it further states that if no particular person will undertake the venture, then the inhabitants are to run the mill and share the expense. When the land was surveyed and the plan drawn up in May, 1750, there was no mill site reserved, but the grantors accepted the plan as it was.

It seems that there was no mill built for a number of years. An excerpt from an early book of records reads as follows:

"Monday, June 25, 1764

Met according to adjournment and voted —

1st. That Thomas Tash Esq., shall have eight hundred pounds old tenor of the proprietors to build a Grist Mill and Dam in New Durham and compleat her fit to grind by the first of November next and to keep her in repair for fifteen years. And said Thomas Tash Esq. and his heirs is to run said Mill forever and to have the customary tole of other mills in this province.

2dly. That each proprietor shall pay twelve pounds old tenor for the above said Mill and other incident charges.

3dly. Voted that Col. Joseph Smith Esq. and Major Thomas Tash Esq. both of Newmarket shall be agents to apply to the General Court for us to get an act or law for to compel the proprietors to pay this charge and any other that is or shall be due for the promoting the settlement of the above said town.

Thomas Tash, Town Clerk."

That these gentlemen were not wholly successful is indicated by the report that the final sum paid Major Tash was some 70 pounds for the building of the Mill, which bears out the family tradition that Major Tash built the mills "at his own expense."

In the report of settlements made in 1770, a John Doo is listed as owning Lots # 97, on which he has a house, and # 65, on which he has two mills, "grist and saw". This is the location where Col. Tash later had his mills; the road to it ran southwesterly from the Bay road, crossed what is now Route 11 and continued as the (later called) Quaker road to the Ridge.

A later report of the same year lists John Younge as the owner of the Lot # 65 with the two mills. It is also recorded that "a Saw mill Etc was burnt" on Lot # 17, owned by Paul March. This is in the area of the Mill Pond on the river from Merrymeeting Lake; not the one we know today but farther upstream.

The Meeting House and several large dwelling houses were built here in the early 1770's; the specifications for the minister's house in 1773 called for it to be "borded, clabborded and shingled." With the population increasing, more and better houses were built and the saw mills ran profitably.

At the end of an inventory taken in 1784, the assessors rate the profits of Willey's Grist mill and saw mill; Col. Thomas Tash's saw mill, Esq. Paul March's mill, and Chamberlin's mill.

In 1796, Joseph Gilman ran a fulling mill on the river coming from Cold Rain pond, at a dam near what is now the property of the Farmington Fish and Game Club. This part of the river was then called "Fulling Mill Brook", later named "Ela's River"; by whatever name, it was the main branch of the Cocheco river. One road at this junction led to the "Plains" as it does today; the other, known as the "Jewett road" ran north northwest to strike the Merrymeeting road north of one of the "March's ponds," where Captain James Jewett had lumber mills. He owned eight lots in the second division in 1815, lot #9 encompassing the profitable outlet from Merrymeeting lake, and operated these mills until his death in 1822.

Nicholas Noyes bought the Jewett properties and ran the mills until 1835, when he sold out to David Steele, lawyer and Dr. John P. Elkins. There is no doubt that Nicholas Noyes found the mill operation profitable, for he had no property of any kind when he arrived in New Durham in 1820; in 1826, he records having "money at interest" to the amount of \$7,000! A real fortune in those days, and not an inconsiderable sum today.

The partnership of Elkins and Steele lasted only a year. Dr. Elkins carried on for five years (Stephen Pendergast having a quarter interest for two years) then sold the mills to Jonathan B. Mooney in 1843. Mr. Mooney moved to Alton in 1850 and sold the properties to George Mathewson of Dover.

Chamberlin's mills were located on a small river on the south side of New Durham Ridge, his Lot # 40 running along the Farmington boundary line.

Lt. Ephraim Chamberlin, listed on the 1784 inventory, could have been the owner of these mills; in 1806, Ephraim is not listed, but Isaac is, and the latter ran two mills continuously until 1838, when he presumably died. In 1840, his son Isaac Jun., took over and carried on until 1843, when the wheels of that mill stopped forever.

Nathaniel W. Ela of Dover bought the Tash mills and much of the property of Col. Tash who died in 1809, and operated them until 1839. He lived in Dover but his son George Ela lived in New Durham in the former Josiah Edgerly house, and kept the house as a tavern as before. He also served as Town Clerk and Selectman. When his father died in 1842, George inherited his property, which amounted to about 600 acres. But the mill wheels of the Tash-Ela mills were silenced forever, too.

Willey's mills, recorded in 1784, were located on Lots # 17, 18 and 19 on the Merrymeeting River. Samuel Willey, David Willey and Samuel, Jun., were the co-owners until 1819 when the elder Samuel died. Various Willeys continued ownership, namely David, Joseph and Samuel B. Willey until 1836, when Samuel Downing bought a two-thirds share. By the next year he owned it all. Downings Mills functioned for many years, and the corner where it was located bore this name as long as it was there, and even longer.

John Hiner owned a mill in 1815; Benjamin Cook and Eben Garland took it over in 1816 and in 1819 David Shaw became owner, his brother Isaac joining him seven years later. The location, Shaw's pond, is in the second division. These mills closed down in 1833. Captain William Horn(e) had a mill in 1815, too, located on the northern boundary of New Durham and Wolfeborough. This mill closed about the same time as did Shaw's.

Other men who had brief careers as mill owners were Solomon and Enoch Davis in the Shaw's pond area; Capt. Samuel Clark, at the eastern end of Merrymeeting; Lucius Powers, east of the Devil's Den, and Benjamin Chesley, near the Brookfield boundary line. Capt. John Colomy had a saw mill for several years (1804-1808, perhaps longer) and Samuel Hodgdon was right across the river. This was known as "Colomy's river", which comes from March's ponds and is now known as the Hayes brook. They were near the Middleton boundary line, almost to that of Farmington. Reuben Hayes was a mill owner from 1817-1835, but as he had many hundreds of acres all over the town, it is difficult to locate his particular mill. It is likely that he bought Capt. Clark's property as described above.

George Mathewson of Dover, who bought the mills at the outlet of Merrymeeting Pond, started the manufacture of gunpowder in 1852 or 1853, his first superintendent being Parker W. Horne, followed by Alvin White and Samuel H. Berry. There were many alterations and additions necessary to convert the old saw mill to a powder plant, and eventually there were eight separate and well-spaced buildings used for this business: charcoal, mixing, wheel and corning mills, steam drying, excelsior, salt peter refining, packing mills and a dry house. There was also a blacksmith shop and boarding house on the premises.

From 1856 to 1861 it was called the "Eureka Powder Works" (this name is on the little orange cans which are sold in Antique

shops today) and from then it was known as the "Union Powder Works Co."; sometime in this period Mathewson failed and the property was acquired by Lewis P. Childs of Providence, R. I.

This was a hazardous business, calling for strict regulations to prevent sparks and explosions. The buildings were several rods apart, walkways were swept daily; carts, tools (such as shovels) and some machinery were of wood, and workmen were not allowed to smoke anywhere on the premises.

Even with these precautions there were minor accidents. In 1858 the upper wheel, or grinding mill exploded, killing a man named Blake. Two others were killed when the same mill blew up again later.

In September or December (accounts differ) of 1860 occurred one of the most dreadful catastrophies in New Hampshire. A spark ignited powder in the dry house, the flash caught the press mill, fire from the press mill ignited the kernelling mill which exploded. Only one building was left standing at the end of the holocaust and many men lost their lives. It was said that the blast was heard and felt for a radius of fifty miles around and it can well be believed, for twenty five tons of gun powder exploded that day!

There have been many stories as to the cause of the disaster, some logical and some fanciful. One that was widely circulated* went thus:

"What caused the explosion?" I asked my informant.

"Well, nobody knows and probably ever will know the truth of the matter; anyway, there's a mystery about it."

"What is the mystery?"

"Well, you see, . . . a man who worked in one of the mills didn't get along smooth with his wife, and at noon on the day of the explosion she blew him up. When he went out of the door the man allowed that when the clock struck two she would see a blowup that she would remember, for he had got tired of being blown up on a small scale."

"But that does not prove that the man did it."

"I know it don't prove anything, but it was just two o'clock when the mill went up."

Another story concerns one of the workmen who was blown through a wall. Badly burned but alive, he was packed in potato peelings, the women of the village peeling bushels of potatoes for many weeks to keep him in fresh supply. He recovered and lived to a good age.

The mills were rebuilt and the demands of the Civil War government took the whole supply of gunpowder made in New Durham.

* From the Rochester Courier.

The mill stepped up production to supply Army cannon and musket as well as Navy cannon.

There were other accidents after the great explosion, for it was highly dangerous work. In 1874, some local men took it over and from then on the records are vague. For many years the old powder mill lay in ruins with nothing but the boarding house and the stone walls of the powder magazine to show where New Durham's biggest industry had been.

In 1944, construction of a State Fish Hatchery was commenced and in 1947 it began operations. Mr. Frank Seaver is the present superintendent and welcomes visitors to this interesting spot.

Powder Mill Village is an attractive small community today, old and new homes side by side amidst pleasant wooded surroundings. There is nothing left to mark the site of death and destruction of one hundred years ago.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The Civil War

President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation on April 15, 1861 calling for 75,000 men to serve three months to suppress the Rebellion. New Hampshire men responded to the call, and New Durham furnished her share of soldiers as long as the war continued. The following list, compiled from the "Register of New Hampshire Soldiers and Sailors, War of the Rebellion", by Ayling, gives the name, age and date of enlistment. Those starred were born in New Durham.

Batchelder, Mayhew C., 26, Aug. '62; *Berry, George E., 18, Aug. '62; Berry, William E., 44, Aug. '64; Boodey, Horace P., 18, Aug. '62; *Bickford, Jackson C., 19, July '61; Bickford, Anson, 26, Aug. '62, Killed June 3, '64, Cold Harbor, Va.; Cobb, William H., 30, Aug. '62; *Chesley, John F., 35, Oct. '61; Colbath, John S., 19, Oct. '61; *Colomy, James P., 18, Oct. '61, Died of disease Jan. 15, '62; *Colomy, John, 42, Aug. '62; Clark, David J., 27, May, '61; *Davis, George F., 18, Aug. '62; Davis, Thomas N., 44, Aug. '62; Drew, John S., 18, Aug. '62, Died of disease Dec. 23, '63; *Durgin, Edwin R., 18, Aug. '62, Died of disease Dec. 14, '63; *Edgerly, Daniel M., 19, Aug. '62; *Edgerly, Shadrach A., 40, Oct. '61; *Evans, Charles M., 21, Aug. '62; *Evans, George A., 28, Aug. '62; *Hayes, Alonzo E., 18, Mar. '64; *Hayes, Nehemiah B., 19, Aug. '62; *Ham, Penuel C., 38, Nov. '61, Captain; *Horn, Stephen B., 18, May '61; Horne, Ira B., 18, Oct. '62, Died of disease Nov. 11, '63; *Jenkins, William P., 25, Dec. '61; *Joy Christopher C., 26, Aug. '62, Killed July 2, '63 at Gettysburg; *Jones, George F., 21, Oct. '61; Locke, Benjamin T., 25, Jan. '62, Killed Aug. 25, '64 at Kearneyville, Va.; *Mitchell, Thomas E., 29, Sept. '61; *Mitchell, Alvin, 21, Aug. '62; *Penney, John W., 20, Oct. '61; Person, Rorace B., 32, Aug. '62; Pinkham, John Q., 30, Sept. '61; Pinkham, Jeremiah S., 24, Aug. '62, Died of disease July 21, '63; *Pinkham, Justice, 34, Aug. '62, Died of disease March 4, '63; Rand, Cyrus, 18, May '61; Rand, Ira, 18, May '61; *Randall, John F., 20, Aug. '62, Killed May 3 at Chancellorsville, Va.; *Randall, Franklin W., 18, Oct. '61, Awarded Gillmore medal "for gallant and meritorious conduct"; *Randall, Isaac, 43, Sept. '64; *Randall, Moses, 35, Aug. '64; Rines, Alvah C., 36, Sept. '64; Rollins, Solomon, 21, May '61; Rollins, Elisha E., 25, Aug. '62, Died of wounds June 7, '63; Rollins, Cyrus C., 27, Aug. '64; *Runnals, John S., 18, Sept. '61; *Runnals, Paul M., 27, Oct. '61; Runnals, Joseph, 43, Aug. '64; *Savage, Moses H. 33, Aug. '62, Killed May 3, '63 at Chancellorsville, Va.; Streeter, Roswell, 35, Aug. '62, Died of disease May 24, '63; *Tash, William H., 25, Sept. '61; Towle, Charles F., 36, Aug. '62; Towle, Exekial, 30, Aug. '62;

Tuttle, Joseph, 35, Aug. '62, Killed June 3, '63 at Cold Harbor, Va.;
Wentworth, Jacob S., 23, Aug. '62, Killed May 3, '63 at Chancellors-
ville, Va.; *Willey, Alfred S., 44, Sept. '61; *Willey, Bartholomew,
24, Sept. '61; *Willey, Elijah, 20, Dec. '61; *Willey, Reuel W., 35,
Aug. '62; Young, Joseph D., 26, Aug. '61, Died of disease June 13,
'62; Young, Thomas, 28, Aug. '62, Died of wounds Oct. 23, '64;
York, Arthur, 28, Aug. '62, Died of disease Jan. 12, '63.

**More names of New Durham men who served in this war:

W. A. Labounty, J. Hill, B. F. Blaisdell, J. Willey, H. S. Went-
worth, J. S. Ricker, A. Wentworth, J. W. Bradbury, N. Boston,
W. Jones, A. Parris, C. L. Pinkham, F. B. Evans, S. Rogers, G. K.
Ricker, T. Rogers, W. J. Stowell, A. E. H. Ham, J. A. Raymond,
J. F. Twombly, J. A. Willey, D. J. Pinkham, J. G. Aspinall, G. D.
Richards, O. B. Coburn.

Names of Drafted Men

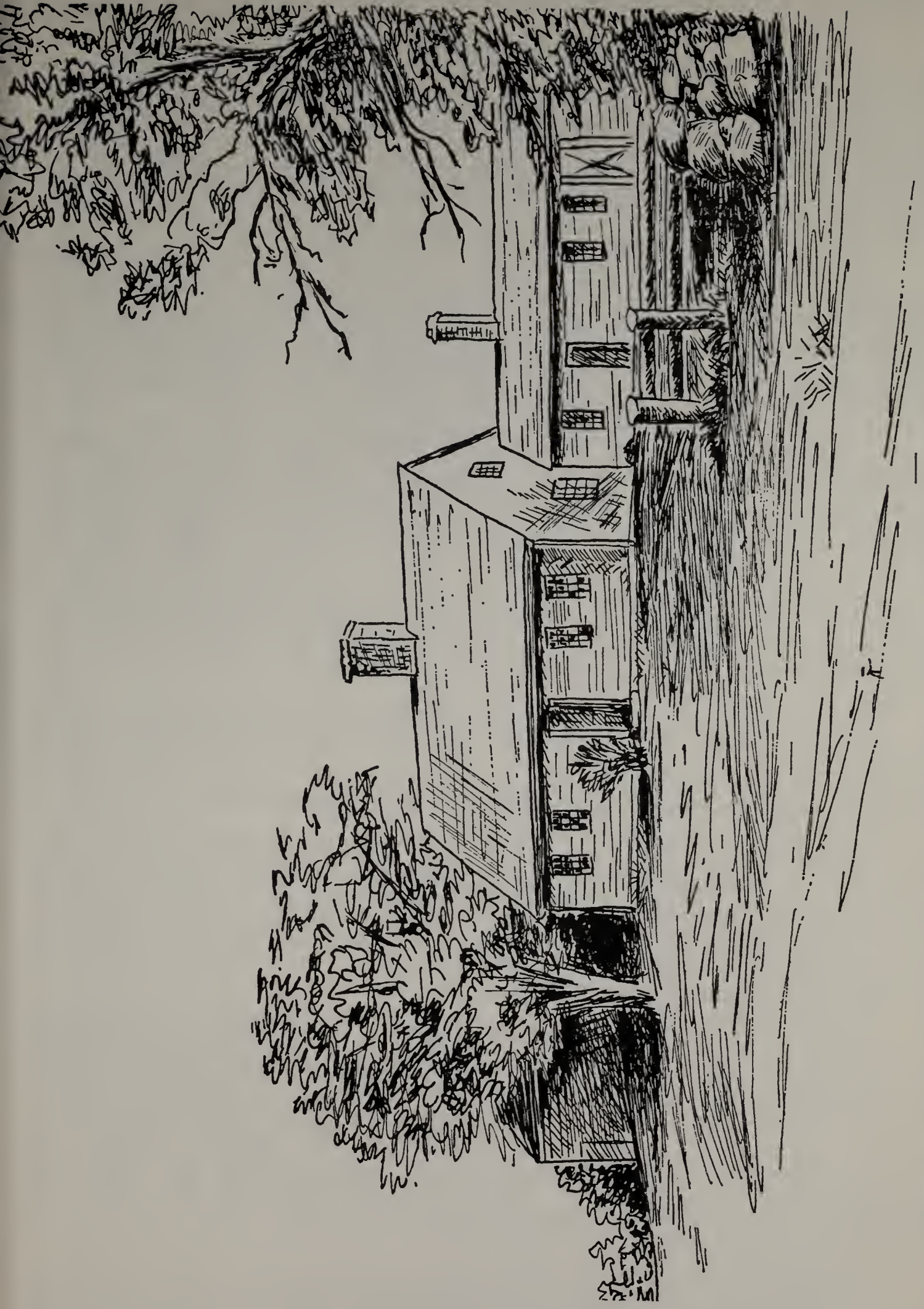
A. W. Downing, C. W. Willard, C. A. Berry, H. A. Jenkins,
T. W. Perkins, J. W. Durgin, H. G. Chamberlain, B. S. Grace, H.
Corson, E. H. Evans, C. H. Boodey, T. W. Coburn, C. Brooks.

Names of Men Who Enlisted to Fill New Durham's Quota:

D. McMahan, T. Connell, M. Maloney, J. Smith, W. Smith,
H. Aiken, J. Maloney, J. Rindon, I. Mingo, J. L. Blanch, W. McRee,
H. Smith, E. Thomas, P. Verlin, J. Gallighan, M. Daily, T. Butter,
A. A. Davis, C. Hull, J. Franklin.

Many of the names above were foreign-born, some of whom
changed their names on arrival in this country. H. Smith, for in-
stance, was born in Germany.

**Taken from a published town report for the years 1861,
'62, '63, '64, and '65.



Home of John Davis in 1787. This house was on the "ministry lot # 9" and was probably built for Rev. John Addams who came with the first settlers. Now the home of Mr. John Barnet, Jr.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

1870-1960

The conflict between the States left New England much as she had been before. No battles had been fought here and industry was flourishing in the cities and larger towns. Except for the sadness of mourning their dead, the people of New England were reasonably well off.

New Durham was primarily a farming and lumbering community. The Powder Mills and Downing's lumber mills employed a goodly number of men, but the local industries were, for the most part, small mills which were family-owned and family-run. A man with no particular ambition for material or educational advantages for his family could make a decent living.

In Farmington, Rochester and Dover, industry was mushrooming. The manufacture of shoes had begun around 1850 — in the 1860's and '70's, plants were springing up on every available corner. These factories employed women as well as men, and the lure of cash payment for a week's work, in place of the dubious satisfactions of farming and housework took an increasing number from our population. Not only were the young people drawn away but the older folk as well, for they wanted to retire where they could be with their families and friends.

In these years many fine old homes in New Durham were abandoned. It was not until the 1930's and '40's, when the urge to retire to the country affected so many urban dwellers, that many of these homes were bought and restored to usefulness and beauty.

Our town was not wholly abandoned, however. Frankin W. Coburn, a native of Pelham, New Hampshire, after serving an apprenticeship, erected a factory in 1855 on the Birch Hill road and began the manufacture of knives, shoe staves and cutlery. His sons Alonzo G. and Franklin W., Jr., went into their father's business about twenty years later.

The Coburns moved their operations to Haverhill, Massachusetts around 1880, and it was there that the Hayes brothers, Seth W., George and Augustus learned the business of knife manufacturing. Returning to town a few years later, they built a factory on the Merrymeeting road and made knives of superior quality for many years. Some of this cutlery, the edges sharp and true, are still in use in local kitchens and are much preferred to those of modern manufacture.

Edward E. Rice, founder of the Rice Manufacturing Co., came to New Durham in 1881. In his mill at the corner of the Bay and Merrymeeting roads, he made hogshead stock; later, wire brushes

and wooden handles. Subsequent owners of this mill were the Osborn Manufacturing Co., Mr. Joseph Berry and Mr. W. Dean Allen. It was during the latter's ownership that the mill was totally destroyed by fire.

With the country-wide invention and development of machinery, which resulted in mass-produced articles to fill almost every need, the arts and crafts of the home and workshop almost completely disappeared. No longer were furniture, cloth, clothing or shoes carefully fashioned by hand. Mr. Howe's sewing machine even made hand sewing obsolete! Persevering machinists were trying to develop a motor to run a horseless carriage, which was a foolish idea, of course.

The New England housewife liked the new products. Relegated to the attic were the ladderback and Windsor chairs, cherry bureaus, blue Staffordshire and the pewter plates. Stuffed "easy" chairs, corner "what-nots", marble-topped furniture and Haviland china took their place. Chairs dripped "antimacassars", every home boasted a rubber plant, and Father bought a barrel-full of pressed glass for Mother's Christmas present. (He paid about ten dollars for it, incidentally) Currier and Ives prints were framed and hung on the walls, to look down on the "Rogers Group" on the lace-covered table below.

Mother did not knit heavy stockings for the family any more. She had a "hired girl" for a dollar or two a week, and spent her leisure time doing embroidery, or crocheting miles of edgings for pillow slips, towels and underwear. She painted china, or water colors, and put bits of silk together with various stitches for a "crazy quilt".

With all of this genteel frivolity, however, she ran her home with economy, even frugality; preserved hundreds of jars of fruit, vegetables, pickles, jellies and jams every summer, swept and scoured every inch of her house twice a year and was a faithful member of the Ladies' Aid.

Around the turn of the century, the annual celebration of "Old Home Day" was commenced. What a joyous occasion it was! Former residents returned to mingle with families and friends, to swap news, show off the new babies, argue about politics, and shake their heads over the newest crazes. A horseless carriage was ridiculous enough, but some men claimed that they would be flying through the air one of these days!

The day usually began with the raising of the flag in mid-morning, followed by contests and games. Sometimes a big dinner was served at long tables in the Grange hall; sometimes they had a basket picnic out of doors. The afternoon was spent listening to music, a prayer or two, "declamations" and "appropriate remarks by prominent speakers." But the best part of all was the visit back home.

Rev. Joseph F. Joy was the head of the committee in 1904 and '05; some of those who assisted him were Miss Georgia O. Berry, John Dore, Joseph E. Berry, Charles Evans, E. K. Amazeen, J. B. Chamberlin, Mrs. Franklin W. Coburn, Mrs. Leslie W. Ricker and Mrs. Walter H. Miller.

In 1902, the annual report of the School board, submitted by Dyer M. Phillips, Leslie M. Ricker and Shem C. Wentworth, contained this advice, as pertinent today as it was 60 years ago: "Home discipline is essential if we want good school discipline . . . The welfare of our town in the years to come will depend largely on our children and their education . . . If we want good citizens, if we want good town government in later years, we must educate our children."

In the annual school report for 1906, the School board, John B. Chamberlin, Lillie M. Bickford and Mary J. Young, stated, in regard to teachers: ". . . we realize however that we cannot retain a successful woman for the inadequate salaries paid in town. We cannot expect a woman to teach in a town paying \$6.50 to \$7.50 for 24 weeks in a year when she can obtain \$8.00 to \$9.00 per week for 34 to 36 weeks in the year. She will most certainly choose the latter."

By this time, the original 14 district schools had dwindled to seven: South, Ridge, Plains, Corner, Center, Powder Works and Caverly. The school budget was around \$1,000 in these years. Out of this the town paid the teachers' board and salaries, school supplies (which were not lavish) painting, cleaning and repairing the buildings, and wood for the stoves. The town stayed within the budget, too, closing the schools if necessary to halt further expenditure.

In 1902, two citizens of North Barnstead tried an ingenious experiment which turned out to be very successful. Albion N. Foss and Russell Garney, living about four miles apart, strung up some telephone wire on trees and posts between their houses and had a lot of fun with their private telephone line. Neighbors and friends for miles around were so impressed with this accomplishment that they did something about it; on February 3, 1903, a group of men and women from Barnstead, Alton and New Durham met in Barnstead and formed the "Union Telephone Company." They elected Charles E. Rand president; William H. Berry, vice-president and Augustus J. Chamberlin secretary and treasurer. The Directors were Charles E. Rand, Arthur T. Pendergast, William H. Berry, Charles W. Evans, Irving S. Chamberlin, Velzora Deland and Samuel O. Joy. (Some of these people gave their addresses as "Dexter" — this was the section in the southernmost peak of the town of New Durham. It had a post office, too.)

In March an estimate of expenses for running a telephone line from Barnstead Center to Farmington (14 miles) was presented as follows:

14 miles second-hand wire, insulators and brackets for same	\$140.00
20 telephones @ \$12.25	245.00
420 poles (30 to a mile) @ .50	210.00
Setting 420 poles	70.00
	<hr/>
	\$665.00

In April, the Selectmen of New Durham gave the company permission "to erect poles and string wires for a telephone line" within its boundaries. The first order for New Durham was for 12 telephones in August, 1903 and these were in the New Durham Ridge area. The workmen who dug the holes and set the poles were paid \$1.50 per day.

The company was incorporated in June, 1903 and acquired a long list of stockholders. Later, in order to make long-distance calls, a switchboard was set up in Barnstead; Josie Foss, the manager, received \$125.00 a year.

Consideration of extending the lines to Jones' Store, the main road and vicinity was undertaken in 1908; since that time, telephone lines have stretched far into the hills and valleys of our town, and telephone service has been recently expanded and improved with a modern dial system.

On February 6, 1908, the "New Town House" was dedicated. The exercises began at two o'clock with orchestral and choral music and with prayers by Rev. Joseph F. Joy. The formal presentation was made by George H. Jones, chairman of the building committee, the response by Dana P. Jones, chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Walter H. Miller gave a historical sketch, Irving Ricker played a cornet solo, and there were addresses and remarks by Mr. and Mrs. Franklin W. Coburn, Rev. E. K. Amazeen, Frank R. Marston, H. G. Chamberlin, Zanello D. Berry, Willard M. March and others.

After supper, a four-act drama was enacted, called "Jack O' Diamonds". Taking part in this thriller were Gertrude E. Hawley, Edith A. Lambertson, Walter A. Lang, Grover C. Hayes, Joseph E. Berry, George D. Lambertson, Gustav Bernard, Eva Tonberg, George F. Bickford, Leslie W. Ricker and Marion Ricker.

The first automobile in New Durham was owned by George H. Jones, prominent citizen and lumber dealer, in May, 1907. He went to Massachusetts to purchase it and brought a mechanic back with him to teach him about its inner workings and how to drive it. It was a "Stanley Steamer", an open two-seater with a jump seat up front. We can well believe that it was the talk of the town! Mr. Jones' father, who might have been expected to disapprove of this revolutionary contraption, took a keen delight in it, however, and would hop in for a "spin" at every opportunity!

Though owning and driving an automobile was an exciting experience to the men of that day, it was not without its hazards. There were few country mechanics who were familiar with the principles of automotive power, and a break-down might take weeks to repair. There was no such thing as a "gas station"; roads were of dirt and gravel and changing a blown-out tire took strength and time. But we venture to guess that in those days, hardly anything pleased the heart of a man more than his first automobile.

Electricity followed the telephone in our town. Oscar Duncan and his son Raymond Duncan of Alton brought the Alton Electric Light and Power Co. from Farmington through New Durham in the spring of 1912. About a dozen customers subscribed to the new service and had their homes wired for electricity. In the beginning this consisted of bare bulbs hanging from wires in the most important rooms, for decorative lamps and useful appliances were yet to come. Needless to say, this service has also expanded and improved over the years and has done as much as anything else to raise the standard of living everywhere.

War broke out in Europe in 1914, a war "to make the world safe for democracy". The United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. New Durham's population was under 500 now; the total number of men from this town who served with the American forces in this war was less than the number who fought in the Revolutionary war. Following are the names:

Harry Berry	Raymond Ricker
Ray Berry; died while in the service of his country.	Edgar Rohan
Joseph Buckingham	George Rohan
George Deroy	Ernest Rollins
Daniel Harding	Ulmer Royal
Maurice Hayes	Charles Sebley, Jr.
Frank Jones	Daniel Sweeney
Harry Jones	George Thurston
Samuel Joy, Jr.	Walter Thurston
Fred Lowell	George Willey
	Thomas Williamson

In 1919, it was voted by the town that the Selectmen, Dana P. Jones, Alberton N. Berry and Harry Bickford, "be instructed to purchase an Honor Roll in memory of our soldiers who served in the late War." This was done.

The Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was the start of another devastating and tragic war. On the following list it will be noted that four New Durham young women volunteered to serve their country, as well as 47 men. Those starred died while in the service.

Eleanor F. Baxter	Abbot N. Hayes
Christina M. Berry	John W. Hayes

Elmer Berry
 Robert W. Berry
 George E. Bickford
 Walter W. Burnett
 Roland H. Cathcart
 Lewis B. Chamberlin
 Nelson E. Chamberlin
 John I. Chase
 Richard F. Chase
 Rubie Chase
 Verne Chase
 Victor Chase
 Willis A. Corson
 Harold E. Davoli
 Wilbur J. Drew
 Arthur T. Emery
 Catherine Emery
 Harold G. Field
 Raymond H. Flint
 Jasper Edward Flint
 Murray G. Flint
 Rene J. Grenier
 *Robert W. Haller
 William L. Hanchett

Cecil N. Laney
 Frank T. Laney
 George E. Laney, Jr.
 Albert L. Langley
 Arthur D. Malone
 Curtis E. Meinelt
 Arthur Melanson
 Harry W. Nutter
 Kenneth A. Perkins
 Dona Rand
 *William H. Rollins
 Albert C. Shaw
 Francis L. Snow
 Alfred Smith
 Walter S. Thurston, Jr.
 Frank W. Weibel
 George H. Wentworth
 Lewis A. Wentworth, Jr.
 Nelson E. Wentworth
 Robert F. Wentworth
 Roy M. Sheldon, Jr.
 Neil Willett
 Clarence R. York

Seventeen New Durham men and one woman served in the Korean "conflict", the latter attaining a most creditable record and a high rank, Major Elizabeth L. Lambertson. Following is the list:

Alvah A. Adams
 Kenneth N. Berry
 Walter W. Burnett
 Robert E. Dow
 Francis E. Dyer, Jr.
 Murray G. Flint
 Arthur A. Joy, Jr.
 Samuel O. Joy, III
 Elizabeth L. Lambertson
 George D. Lambertson, Jr.

Francis H. Laney
 Bruce R. Mills
 (missing in action)
 George R. Parsons
 Alfred W. Smith
 Calvin W. Thurston
 George H. Wentworth
 Ralph N. Wentworth
 Frederick I. Wood, Jr.

The local Grange provided a memorial honoring those who served in World War II and Korea. A more lasting structure was needed, however, and in 1960, Marion M. Smith headed a committee which arranged for a handsome and permanent memorial, a donation of the townspeople. On May 30, 1961, this Honor Roll was dedicated with memorable ceremonies.

Merrymeeting Lake, its unspoiled natural beauty unsurpassed in New England, has been developed in recent years as a popular summer resort. Five miles of road have been constructed on the southern shores, opening up many scenic locations for about 250

cottages. This area, populated by many year-round residents as well, is continually growing, and offers excellent fishing, boating, and swimming in its crystal waters.

The old Bay road through New Durham will soon be by-passed by the wide highway of Route 11, which will afford the traveler smooth and speedy access to the Winnepesaukee and White Mountains regions. Many a small town has thus been relegated to obscurity on the map, but this is not a matter for great concern. The tranquility of green forests and cold streams; the pleasant sunny valleys and low-lying hills will always be here for those who find contentment in these gifts of Nature.

The pioneers who petitioned the Proprietors for a "grant of a township bounding upon Rochester head line and Barnstead" were sturdy and courageous men. Their hands were rough, they ate coarse food and dressed in animal skins and homespun. The Bible was the only book that many of them had ever known.

But who is to say that, as they paused to rest weary backs from felling trees or plowing the stubborn earth, they did not look across the forested valley toward the great White Hills, and think that it was a land of great beauty, this land that they had chosen?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Some Early Families

The study of genealogy is fascinating, rewarding — and time-consuming. Would that we had time and space to trace back all of the early New Durham residents, to find where they originated, whom they married, where they lived, worked and raised their families.

This chapter, therefore, includes only brief outlines of some of the families not already described, whose names figure earliest and most frequently in the annals of the Town. The writer has more material on these families which she will gladly share with anyone who is interested.

BENNETT

John Bennett or Benrick was born in 1721 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, lived in Durham, moved to New Durham after 1762. His wife was Abigail Roberts. By 1770 he was settled on a piece of land (Lot # 5) on the north side of the New Durham Ridge road, had a house and family and had cleared or improved 20 acres of land. He served the town as tithingman, surveyer of highways, selectman and was moderator at the first town meeting to be held at the new Meeting House in 1772.

One of his sons, John, Jun., was selectman 18 years, moved to Portsmouth in 1815, and owned several hundred acres of land in town. He was married to Lydia Gage. Another son, Benjamin, married 1st) Elizabeth March, 2nd) Elizabeth Gage Bell, widow and sister of his brother's wife. He built a log house in 1773 in New Durham Gore, later framed his house right over the log structure and added a barn. After 1777, when the Gore set up its own government apart from New Durham (before it was incorporated as Alton in 1796) there were many town meetings held at Benjamin's house.

The original road through New Durham bridged the river as it does today at "Merrymeeting corner", turned north for a short distance toward Merrymeeting Lake, then took a sharp turn west up over the hill running north of Benjamin Bennett's barn; from there it turned south, crossed the river and went on to Barnstead.

Benjamin Bennett's home has been owned by the Bennett family since he built it and is now the home of his great great-grandson, Maurice Bennett.

BERRY

In 1770 there were three families of this name in town. Benjamin Berrey, who had lot # 11; James Berrey, lot # 30 and

Widow Mariam Berrey, lot # 64. At this time they each had a house and family. It is a family tradition that three brothers from Durham had explored the territory before the land granting and purchased the lots they wanted in the favored locations afterward.

Benjamin's great grandson was Ichabod P. Berry, who purchased the house at the junction of the Bay road and the road leading to Middleton from David Steele in 1856, which is now the home of his granddaughter Mrs. Lua M. Pike and her husband, Cecil M. Pike. His grandsons were the late Myron and Izah P. Berry.

In 1773 James Berrey recorded in the town books the names and ages of his six children, — later added four more. Of the Widow Mariam we have no information.

Elder Nathaniel Berry, mentioned in another chapter, was not of this branch of the Berry family; neither was Col. Stephen Berry, whose son and grandson were tavern-keepers at New Durham corner for many years.

All of the Berrys have consistently contributed their efforts in governing the town, serving in many offices and on many committees, — from Benjamin Berry, who was Tithingman in 1765 and James, who was selectman in the same year, right down to the present time.

BICKFORD

There were four Bickfords, all from Durham who had land granted to them in 1750: Eleazer, lot # 27, his brother Joseph, lot # 36, John, lot # 64, John Jun., (and Theodore Wille) who shared lot # 6. In 1770, Eleazer had given or sold his lot to his son Ebenezer, Joseph had turned over his to his son Benjamin, and Ebenezer was clearing lot # 55. The others did not come until later.

In 1784, there were twelve Bickfords in town. There were many descendants of these families, but they died, moved away or "daughters out"; in 1840 there were but three of this name left and by 1850, none.

In 1856 Charles Bickford moved here from Epsom; he married Nancy Downing, daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Willey) Downing. He was the great-grandfather of George and Robert Bickford. The old homestead, built originally by Samuel Willey, later owned by Downings and Bickfords, is now owned by Louis Holtzberger.

CHAMBERLAIN

It is a tradition in this family that two brothers came from Dover; one to settle in the Gore and one to settle in New Durham. In 1775, the town passed a vote concerning the minister, Rev. Nathaniel Porter: "that the inhabitants of the Gore are excepted in full with New Durham if they will join in settling the minister

and in paying his salary for time to come . . .” and it was stated that “Jacob Chamberlain, Timothy Davis and Ephraim Chamberlain hath signed.”

Lt. Ephraim Chamberlain was on the New Durham tax list in 1784; in 1806 there were four men listed: Penuel, Abraham, Isaac and Ebenezer.

Isaac Chamberlain, born in 1766, married Dorothy Buzzell in 1788; they lived on the south side of New Durham Ridge and had a family of nine children, including twins. He ran a saw mill until 1838.

Jacob Chamberlain of the Gore and his wife Alice had these children and possibly more: Paul, Joseph, Penuel, Jacob, Alice, William and John.

Penuel Chamberlain married Molly Rendal of Madbury in 1793 and was the great grandfather of the late John Chamberlain. The family homestead was on the cross road from New Durham corner to Birch Hill.

Ephraim Chamberlain was a selectman in 1818-1822, Eleazer D. Chamberlain was a selectman in 1824 and '25; was Post master in 1825, and had a tavern license during these years, being described thus: “E. D. Chamberlain, Esq., of New Durham, Trader”.

DAVIS

In 1750 David Davis was granted Lot # 94 but there is no record as to what he did with it. In 1770 Timothy Davis listed two houses and two families on Lot # 19 in the Gore, with about 17 acres improved. In 1784 Solomon Davis and Elisha Davis became residents, and in 1806 there were nine men of that name here. In 1815 there were sixteen. Several of them had large land holdings.

Zebulon Davis, cordwainer, lived in Rochester in 1776 and moved to the Gore in 1784.

Samuel Davis had been a farmer in Kittery, Maine, serving at the harbor during the War of 1812. Soon after his marriage to Abigail Tibbetts, he moved to New Durham, acquired land on New Durham Ridge and raised a family of five children. His son Samuel, in order to acquire an education, began to work for wages at an early age. When only twelve years old, he was accustomed to driving a team from New Durham to Portsmouth. His efforts made it possible for him to graduate from Gilmanton Academy.

John Davis recorded the births of his seven children in the Town book in 1807; in 1820 Winthrop Davis entered the names of his eight children and in 1830 Sirpless Davis recorded his family of seven. It is odd and regrettable that so many old birth records do not include the name of the mother who bore them!

EDGERLY

The founder of this line in the new world was Thomas Edgerly who came from England to settle in Oyster River before 1665. His numerous descendants settled in Durham, Exeter, Alton, Wolfeboro, Farmington and New Durham.

His great grandsons Thomas and Caleb came to New Durham and the Gore around 1780; Caleb served the town in many capacities, lived on the Jewett road (now called the Brackett road) and died in Alton in 1815. One of his sons, Jeremiah, was the father of Elder David L. Edgerly who lived in town for many years.

Thomas's sons Josiah and Andrew married daughters of Col. Thomas Tash: Josiah married Mary (Polly) Tash and had twelve children; Andrew married Elizabeth (Betsey) Tash and had ten children.

Josiah lived in a house on the Bay road now owned by Mrs. Charles F. Bennett. He was a "joiner", which term meant cabinet-maker rather than carpenter; he served as Selectman and town clerk, had a license to keep a tavern from 1798-1804; and in his house was started the first Library in town. He moved to Farmington in 1808 and many of his children and grandchildren grew up to be esteemed and worthy citizens.

HAM

Nathaniel Ham was born in Durham in 1791, did garrison duty at Portsmouth during the War of 1812 and moved to New Durham shortly afterward. He married Clarissa Chamberlin, daughter of Penuel Chamberlin and Molly (Rendel) Chamberlin and they had 14 children.

Their daughter Tamson married Socrates H. Boodey. Their son Penuel Chamberlin Ham was born in New Durham in 1823, served as Captain in the Civil War; after his discharge in 1864 he kept a store in town. He married Sarah A. Durgin of New Durham in 1847.

HAYES

John Hayes, the immigrant ancestor of nearly all in New Hampshire bearing that name, came from Scotland and settled in Dover in 1680. His first wife and mother of his seven sons and three daughters was Mary Horne. The Hayes families in New Durham from the earliest days to the present are descended from this John Hayes, through various lines.

The first one recorded in town was Lt. Thomas "Hase" in 1784, followed by Hezekiah Hayes, whose marriage to Abigail Bennett of Farmington was recorded in 1801. In 1806 Reuben Hayes and Elihu Hayes are on the tax lists.

Reuben Hayes, son of Elihu and Elizabeth (Davis) Hayes, was born in Madbury in 1776, married Patience, youngest daughter of Col. Tash in 1803, and lived at New Durham corner in the house now occupied by Perley and Elze Young.

From the records, it appears that Reuben was a busy man. He ran a store, tavern and saw mill, was town clerk two years, selectman seven years, Justice of the Peace and Captain of a company of New Durham men in the War of 1812. In his spare time he kept busy buying and selling land and regularly suing the town for damages occurring from roads being laid out through his holdings. He seems to have been an aggressive sort of fellow who wanted his own way — the first notation in one record of a town meeting was a vote that Reuben Hayes be not allowed to talk to the moderator about town business before the meeting started!

Deacon Solomon Hayes moved from Barrington to New Durham before 1850 and lived on the cross road to Middleton. His wife was his first cousin Elizabeth Hayes, sister to Reuben. He was a devout member of the Free Will Baptist Church and a regular member at quarterly meetings.

Daniel Hayes of Alton married Maria Durgin in 1839 and they lived in the Durgin family homestead on the Middleton road, this house now occupied by Irving E. Jennings. Daniel Hayes ran his farm and timberlands profitably and was considered a man of wealth. His only child, a daughter Theresa, married Thomas Langley, who was engaged in the lumber business and lived on Birch Hill in this town.

There were many other Hayes families in town (including the Hayes brothers who manufactured knives, mentioned in another chapter) but lack of space prevents a fuller account. For further research, we recommend the two volumes "John Hayes of Dover" by Katherine Fall Richmond, which is a fairly recent publication and a monumental achievement of genealogical research.

JONES

Samuel Jones, born in 1783, came to New Durham sometime before 1815, when he is recorded as owning Lot # 36 on New Durham Ridge. This lot was owned in 1770 by Benjamin Bickford, who built a house there.

Samuel Jones married Nancy Bennett of New Durham in 1813; their son John L. Jones and his wife Nancy (Chamberlain) Jones (of Alton) were the parents of George F. Jones, born in 1840, who served this town in the Civil War. Samuel and his second wife Ann (Berry) Jones (of Alton) were the parents of Dana P. Jones, born in 1853, who served as Selectman for nine years.

George F. Jones and his wife were the parents of the late George H. Jones of New Durham and Rochester.

JOY

There is a little boy in the New Durham school today who is probably quite unaware that he bears a name well known in this town for about 180 years. In fact, he is of the eleventh generation to carry the name Samuel Joy.

The first one of this name in New Durham was a son of Deacon Samuel Joy and Hannah (Meador) Joy, of Durham, whose father and grandfather were also named Samuel Joy. He was listed in town in 1784 as owning 150 acres of land, plus oxen and cattle. In 1794 he married Hannah Edgerly, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Doe) Edgerly, raised a family and took an active part in town affairs, serving as a petit juror, Selectman (1799), surveyor of highways and collector of school money.

Since that time there has always been a Samuel Joy on the resident list except for a few years around 1895 when they moved to Dakota. The roots so firmly bound in New Hampshire soil refused to be broken and they returned to the land which had nurtured them for so many years.

The Joys live on the same homestead that Samuel settled in 1784 on the south side of New Durham Ridge.

TASH

The name Tash is found on many pages of New Durham history from its earliest beginnings. Surely no one did more to promote this settlement than Colonel Tash. His sons and grandsons carried on his work and served the town well and faithfully for many years.

Thomas Tash was born in Durham, N. H. in 1722. He started a long and distinguished career as an Indian scout in 1744, later served for eight years during the French and Indian wars. He was made Captain in Col. Joseph Blanchard's regiment against Crown Point in 1755 and held the rank of Major when he commanded a battalion of five companies of New Hampshire men for the defense of Fort Edward in 1757.

Major Tash had signed the original petition for the grant of land of this town; when they requested incorporation, Gov. Wentworth, in recognition of his military services, named him to call the first town meeting in 1762. From his home in Newmarket, he came to attend town meetings, encouraged the building of roads, built mills and spared neither time nor expense in promoting the welfare of New Durham.

When the Revolutionary War began, he was recommended by the Provincial Assembly for Field officer and was appointed Lieut.-Col. in June, 1776. In October he took command of a regiment and upon orders of General Washington proceeded to Peekskill, New York. The regiment saw service in New York, Trenton and Princeton under the commanding General.

After the campaign, he returned to Newmarket where he had been engaged in shipping, and now found time to act as Moderator and Selectman in New Durham, and also served this town, the Gore and Wolfeborough as Representative to the General Assembly at Exeter (which became the New Hampshire Legislature) in 1777, '78, '85, '91 and '92.

Col. Tash married (1st) Anne Freeman Parsons, a wealthy widow of Portsmouth, and (2nd) Miss Martha Crommett of Durham, who was the mother of the following children: Thomas, Elizabeth, Mary, William, Jacob, James, Martha and Patience.

The family moved to New Durham in 1783, all traveling on horseback, the Colonel with his little daughter Mary riding "pillion" behind him. They occupied the house that had been built for Reverend Porter, a fine house which stood on the east side of the Bay road just below New Durham corner. The Colonel and his lady lived in grand style, the house furnished with beautiful furniture, silver and paintings, and they had several slaves to do all the work.

Col. Tash died in Oct., 1809 at the age of 87 and is buried in a graveyard in back of the stone-walled field where his house once stood. His wife sold his land, mills and house, went to live with her son William and died in 1818.

Their oldest son Thomas, called "Squire" was noteworthy in his own way. A student of Greek and Latin, he was also an excellent mathematician and surveyor; many of the roads, lots, lands and boundaries in town were perambulated and marked by him. He served as Town Clerk, Selectman, Lot Layer, Justice of the Peace and in many other capacities. He married Jane Allard in 1786 and their eldest son was Thomas, Junior. That name, too, is found on many a town report, showing that he, like his father and grandfather, served loyally the town they all loved so well.

TOWN CHARTER

Province of New Hampshire

George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and to Whom these presents shall come

Greeting

Whereas our Loyal Subjects inhabiting a tract of land within our Province of New Hampshire by the name of New Durham — have humbly petitioned and requested us, that they may be erected and incorporated into a Township and enfranchised with the same powers and privileges with other Towns within said Province and which they may by law have and Enjoy And it appearing to us to be conducive to the general good of our said Province as well as to the said inhabitants in particular, by maintaining good order and encouraging the culture of the Lands, that the same should be done.

KNOW YE THEREFORE that We of our especial Grace certain knowledge and for the encouragement and promotion of the good End and purposes aforesaid by and with the advice of Our Trusty and Well Beloved BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., our Governor and Commander in Chief and of our Council for said Province of New Hampshire Have erected and ordained, And by these presents for us, our heirs and Successors Do will and ordain that our loving subjects residing on the tract of land aforesaid or that shall af hereafter reside and improve thereon the same being limited and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the southwesterly corner of a tract of land granted unto Ebenezer Verney, Wm Wentworth and others upon and at Rochester head line, and from thence running westerly by said head line five miles, and to continue the breadth of five miles extending from the said line so far northwardly as to make a tract of land equal to six miles square, adjoining the said tract of land granted to the said Ebenezer Verney, Wm Wentworth and others and the head line of the said tract of land hereby granted to be a Paralel Line with the head line of Rochester and the said line to be paralel with each other — shall be and by these presents are declared, and ordained to be a Town Corporate, and are hereby erected and incorporated into a body politic and Corporate to have a Continuance until His Majesty's pleasure shall be signified to the contrary, by the name of New Durham with all the powers, Authorities priviledges Immunities and Franchises which any other Town in said Province by Law hold and enjoy always reserving to Us Our heirs and Successors All white pine trees that are or shall be found growing and being on the said tract of land fit for the use of Our

Royal Navy, reserving to us our heirs and successors the Power and Right of dividing said Town when it shall appear necessary and convenient for the benefit of the inhabitants thereof.

PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS And it is hereby declared that this our Charter and Grant is not intended or shall in any manner be construed to extend to or affect the private property of the Soil within the limits aforesaid And as the several Towns within our said Province of New Hampshire are by the laws thereof enabled and authorized to assemble and by the majority of the votes present to choose all such officers and transact such affairs as by the said Law are declared, We do by these presents nominate and appoint Major Thomas Tash to call the first meeting any time within twenty days from the date hereof giving legal notice of the time and design of holding such meeting after which the Annual meeting of said town for the choice of such officers and management of the affairs aforesaid shall be held within the same on the first Monday in March.

IN TESTIMONY whereof We have caused the seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed WITNESS BENNING WENTWORTH Esq., Our GOVERNOR and Commander in Chief in and over our said Province of New Hampshire the Seventh day of December in the third year of Our Reign Annoque Domini 1762

B Wentworth

By His Excellency's Command
with Advice of Council

T Atkinson Jun Secy

Province of December 10 1762
New Hampshire

Recorded in the Book of Charters
Page 253 and 254

T Atkinson Jun Secy

SELECTMEN OF NEW DURHAM

1765: Joseph Thomas, Daniel Rogers, Thomas Tash. 1766: Shadrach Allard, Timothy Murry, James Berry. 1767: Shadrach Allard, Timothy Murry, Timothy Davis. 1768: Ebenezer Bickford, Timothy Murry, Timothy Davis. 1769 '70: Ebenezer Bickford, Timothy Murray, Shadrach Allard. 1771: Ebenezer Bickford, Robert Boodey, Benjamin Mathis. 1772: Ebenezer Dow, Shadrach Allard, Thomas Young. 1773: Capt. James Stillson, Thomas Young, Shadrach Allard. 1774: Robert Boodey, Abraham Runnals, Jonathan Folsom. 1775: John Bennett, Ebenezer Dow, Henry Allard. 1776: No town reports. 1777 '78: Capt. Robert Boodey, Thomas Young, Henry Allard. 1779: Robert Boodey, John Bennett, Jun., Paul March. 1780, '81: John Bennett, Jun., John Roberts, Thomas Tash, Esq. 1782: John Roberts, John Bennett, Jun., Peter Drown. 1783, '84: Col. Thomas Tash, Esq., Capt. Robert Boodey, Peter Drown. 1785: Capt. Robert Boodey, Jonathan Folsom, Peter Drown. 1786, '87: Ebenezer Durgan, John Bennett, Jun., Peter Drown. 1788, '89: Capt. Samuel Runnals, Zachariah Boodey, Ebenezer Durgan. 1790: Capt. Samuel Runnals, Zachariah Boodey, Thomas Tash, Jun. 1791: Thomas Tash, Jun., Joseph Evans, Samuel Demerit. 1792: Thomas Tash, Jun., Joseph Evans, Elisha Davis. 1793: Thomas Tash, Jun., Joseph Evans, Capt. John Bennett. 1794: Jeremiah Palmer, Joseph Mooney, Samuel Wille, 3rd. 1795: Capt. John Bennett, Capt. Joseph Mooney, Samuel Wille, 3rd. 1796: Capt. John Bennett, Capt. Joseph Mooney, Thomas Tash, Jun., Esq. 1797: Capt. John Bennett, Josiah Edgerly, Thomas Tash, Jun., Esq. 1797: March 20, voted extra selectmen: Joseph Evans, Samuel Wille, 3rd, Winthrop Davis, Jonathan Folsom, Samuel Runnals, Esq., and Joseph Jackson. 1798: Capt. John Bennett, Joseph Evans, Jonathan Folsom. 1799: Capt. John Bennett, Samuel Willey, Samuel Joy. 1800: John Bennett, Samuel Willey, Winthrop Davis. 1801, '02: Capt. John Bennett, Samuel Willey, Thomas Tash, Jun. 1803: Thomas Canney, Stephen Berry, Jun., George Davis. 1804: Capt. John Bennett, Capt. Stephen Berry, Thomas Tash, Jun., Esq. 1805: Capt. John Bennett, Jonathan Folsom, Reuben Hayes. 1806: John Bennett, Jonathan Folsom, Thomas Caverly. 1807: Jonathan Folsom, Samuel Willey, George Davis. 1808: John Bennett, Esq., Thomas Tash, Jun., Esq., Thomas Caverly. 1809: Samuel Willey, John Canney, Jun., Thomas Caverly. 1810: Thomas Tash, Jun., Esq., Lt. John Hurd, Jonathan Palmer. 1811: Joseph Boodey, Esq., John Canney, Thomas Caverly. 1812: Joseph Boodey, Reuben Hayes, Esq., Miles Chesley. 1813: Joseph Boodey, Esq., Reuben Hayes, Esq., Thomas Caverly. 1814: Lt. Simon Batchelder, Thomas Tash, Esq., Thomas Caverly. 1815, '16, '17: Joseph Boodey, Esq., Samuel Willey, Esq., Thomas Caverly. 1818, '19: Capt. Thomas Tash, Jun., Samuel Langley, Esq., Ephraim Chamberlin. 1820:

David Willey, Esq., Samuel Langley, Esq., Ephraim Chamberlin. 1821, '22: Maj. Thomas Tash, Mr. Ephraim Chamberlin, Samuel Langley. 1823: Samuel Langley, Esq., Joseph Boodey, Esq., Joseph Berry. 1824: Reuben Hayes, Esq., Mr. Eleazer D. Chamberlin, Capt. William Horn. 1825: Samuel Langley, Esq., Mr. Eleazer D. Chamberlin, Maj. Joseph Berry. 1826: Samuel Langley, Esq., Major Joseph Berry, Joseph Boodey, Esq. 1827: Samuel Langley, Esq., Thomas Tash, Jun., Benjamin Pinkham. 1828: Samuel Langley, Esq., David Steele, Esq., Benjamin Pinkham. 1829: Samuel Langley, Esq., John P. Elkins, Esq., Reuben Hayes. 1830, '31, '32: Joseph Berry, Esq., John P. Elkins, Esq., Reuben Hayes, Esq. 1833: Reuben Hayes, Esq., Joseph Boodey, Esq., Thomas Tash, Jun., Esq. 1834: Thomas Tash, William Horne, Joseph Evans. 1835: Nicholas Noyes, James Hilton, Joseph Evans. 1836: Nicholas Noyes, James Hilton, Thomas Bennett. 1837: James Hilton, Thomas Bennett, David Steele. 1838, '39: Thomas Tash, Jun., Eben B. Berry, Isaac B. Shaw. 1840: Samuel Downing, Samuel Jones, Isaac B. Shaw. 1841: Thomas Bennett, John P. Elkins, George Ela. 1842: Joseph Evans, George Ela, Jonathan F. Chesley. 1843: Thomas Bennett, John P. Elkins, Jonathan F. Chesley. 1844, '45: Samuel Downing, Thomas Bennett, Jonathan F. Chesley. 1846: George D. Savage, John W. French, Isaac B. Shaw. 1847: George D. Savage, John W. French, Benjamin Berry. 1848: Samuel Downing, Jr., Thomas Bennett, George F. Edgerly. 1849: Samuel Downing, Jr., Isaac B. Shaw, Jonathan Mooney. 1850: Levi H. Pinkham, Nathaniel K. Hunt, John Tash. 1851: John Tash, Nathaniel K. Hunt, Jonathan Downing. 1852: Samuel Downing, George W. Tash, Elihu Hayes. 1853: George W. Tash, Elihu Hayes, William Langley. 1854: Elihu Hayes, William Langley, Joseph Y. Berry. 1855: Samuel Downing, Jr., Charles B. Edgerly, John L. Jones. 1856: Ephraim Tebbetts, Charles B. Edgerly, Sewell Randall. 1857: Elihu Hayes, James A. Miller. 1858: Elihu Hayes, James A. Miller, Benjamin C. Perkins. 1859: Elihu Hayes, Samuel W. Joy, Hiram W. Edgerly. 1860: Samuel W. Joy, Hiram W. Edgerly, Ira S. Ricker. 1861: Ephraim Tebbetts, Ichabod P. Berry, Ira S. Ricker. 1862: Ephraim Tebbetts, Ichabod P. Berry, Levi F. French. 1863, '64: Ephraim Tebbetts, Levi F. French, Amos Downing. 1865: Levi F. French, James A. Miller, Samuel W. Joy. 1866: James A. Miller, Samuel W. Joy, Hiram W. Edgerly. 1867: Charles H. Boodey, Daniel Burnham, Ai G. Rines. 1868: Charles H. Boodey, Baalis B. Tebbetts. 1869: Penuel C. Ham, Ira S. Ricker, Moses H. Chesley. 1870: Jeremiah S. Colbath, Henry A. Jenkins. 1871, '72: Jeremiah S. Colbath, Ira Ricker, Eben B. Berry. 1873: Jeremiah S. Colbath, George Bickford, Elihu Hayes. 1874: Horatio G. Chamberlin, George Bickford, Elihu Hayes. 1875: Horatio G. Chamberlin, George Bickford, Cyrus Rollins. 1876: J. S. Colbath, James A. Miller, Cyrus Rollins. 1877, '78: Eben E. Berry, James A. Miller, Cyrus C. Rollins. 1879, '80, '81: Albinus B. Tebbetts, Eben E. Berry, James A. Miller. 1882: James A. Miller, Eben E. Berry, Zanello D. Berry. 1883, '84: James A. Miller, Zanello D. Berry, Dana P. Jones. 1885, '86: James A. Miller, Dana P. Jones, John O. Ayers.

1887: Dana P. Jones, John O. Ayers, Eben E. Berry. 1888: Dana P. Jones, Eben E. Berry. 1889, '90: Dana P. Jones, E. K. Roberts, Eben E. Berry. 1891: Dana P. Jones, Nehemiah Durgin, Eben E. Berry. 1892: Dana P. Jones, Nehemiah Durgin, Russell Miller. 1893, '94: Dana P. Jones, George H. Jones, James A. Miller. 1895: James A. Miller, Samuel O. Joy, Zanello D. Berry. 1896, '97, '98: Dana P. Jones, James A. Miller, Charles F. Towle. 1899: Dana P. Jones, Moses L. Wentworth, Samuel O. Joy. 1900: Eben B. Berry, Thomas Brackett, Irving S. Chamberlin. 1901: Irving S. Chamberlin, Thomas Brackett, Charles H. Reed. 1902: Wilbur C. Jones, Walter H. Miller, Charles H. Reed. 1903: Wilbur C. Jones, Charles H. Reed, Eugene F. Simonds. 1904, '05, '06, '07: Dana P. Jones, Charles D. Bickford, Frank J. Lucas. 1908, '09: Dana P. Jones, Grover C. Hayes, Frank J. Lucas. 1910, '11, '12, '13: Dana P. Jones, Grover C. Hayes, William R. Webster. 1914: Dana P. Jones, Harley N. Miller, William R. Webster. 1915, '16, '17, '18, '19: Dana P. Jones, Alberton N. Berry, Harry Bickford. 1920, '21, '22: Alberton N. Berry, Izah P. Berry, Harry Bickford. 1923: Alberton N. Berry, Izah P. Berry, Henry M. Lee. 1924: Harley A. Giles, Izah P. Berry, Henry M. Lee. 1925: Harley A. Giles, Lewis A. Wentworth, Henry M. Lee. 1926, '27, '28, '29: Harley A. Giles, Lewis A. Wentworth, Harry Bickford. 1930: Alberton N. Berry, Lewis A. Wentworth, Samuel O. Joy. 1931: Henry M. Lee, Floyd P. Coburn, Samuel O. Joy. 1932: George L. Hayes, Floyd P. Coburn, Samuel O. Joy. 1933: George L. Hayes, Floyd P. Coburn, Lewis A. Wentworth. 1934, '35: Grover C. Hayes, William Smith, Lewis A. Wentworth. 1936: William T. Flint, William Smith, John J. Gerrish. 1937, '38: William T. Flint, Nelson M. Berry, John J. Gerrish. 1939, '40, '41, '42: William Smith, Nelson M. Berry, John J. Gerrish. 1943, '44, '45: William Smith, Nelson M. Berry, William E. Richards. 1946, '47, '48, '49, '50, '51: William Smith, Harry W. Nutter, William E. Richards. 1952, '53, '54, '55, '56: Maurice E. Davis, Harry W. Nutter, William E. Richards. 1957, '58, '59, '60, '61: Harry W. Nutter, William E. Richards, Roy W. Berry. 1962: Harry W. Nutter, Roy W. Berry, Elmer Smith.

TOWN CLERKS OF NEW DURHAM

1765: Thomas Tash. 1766: John B. Hanson. 1767, '68, '69: Timothy Murry. 1770: Robert Boodey. 1771: Timothy Murry. 1772, '73: James Berrey. 1774, '75, '77, '78, '79: Jonathan Folsom. 1780: Peter Drown. 1781: William Stilson. 1782-1788: Peter Drown. 1788-1794: Thomas Tash, Jun. 1795-1801: Joseph Jackson. 1801: Stephen Berry, Jun. 1802, '03, '04: Josiah Edgerly. 1805: David Willey. 1806, '07: Reuben Hayes. 1808, '09: David Willey. 1810-1816: Stephen Berry, Jun. 1816-1821: David Willey. 1822, '23: George Ela. 1824-1831: David Willey. 1831: Horatio G. Hayes. 1832-1845: Enoch Berry. 1844-1847: Elihu Hayes. 1849-1852: Baalis B. Tebbets. 1853: Enoch Berry. 1854-1861: Baalis B. Tebbets. 1862: Frank P. C. Tebbetts and Thomas Mitchell. 1863-1867: Baalis B. Tebbets. 1872-1887: George F. Jones. 1888-1899: Leslie W. Ricker. 1900-1912: George H. Jones. 1913, '14: Izah P. Berry. 1915: Leslie W. Ricker. 1916: Guy A. Berry. 1917-1924: Grover C. Hayes. 1925: Leslie W. Ricker. 1926-1930: Carrie M. Miller. 1930-1933: Grover C. Hayes. 1934-1947: Bessie E. Hayes. 1948-1951: Bessie Willett. 1952: Bertha Hayes. 1953: Bessie Willett. 1954-1961: Idanelle Moulton. 1962: Mary Fuller.

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POPULATION

1770	42 families	1900	625
1784	94 tax-payers	1910	523
1815	193 tax-payers	1920	462
1850	total pop. 1049	1930	448
1860	1173	1940	443
1870	973	1950	463
1880	772	1960	474
1890	579		

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